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No shortage of domestic LPG, assures Muniyappa

Page 3A

From past to future: Bengaluru's water lessons

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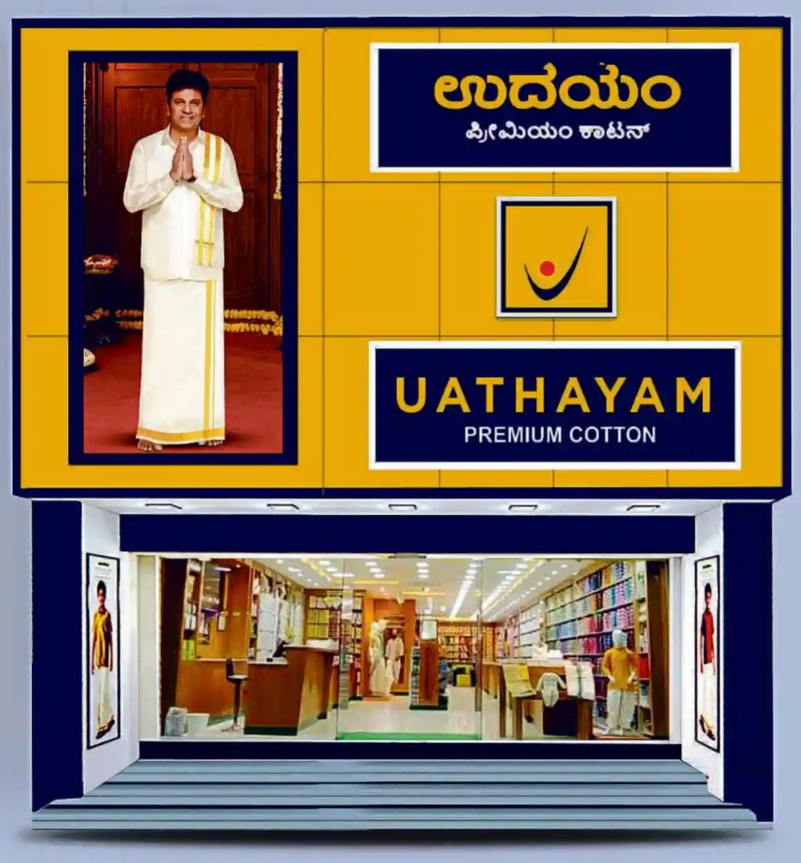

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Hesaraghatta lake in Bengaluru is among a network of several heritage water structures with documented histories spanning over a millennium. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

From past to future: Bengaluru's water lessons

Udaya Kumar P L writes about the traditional self-sustaining water infrastructure of Bengaluru, the ecological measures that protected them and the culture of water sharing

Long before Bengaluru became a global tech hub, it was a city of a thousand eyes — glimmering blue pools of water that stared back at the sun from a dry, rocky plateau. These "eyes" were human-made basins carved into the 900-metre-high ridge to trap rainwater. They were not natural gifts but marvels of ancient engineering. Today, as the city expands, these lakes are often seen only as ecological spaces, forgetting they are also historical records etched in stone.

To understand this water heritage, one must look toward the village of Ramasandra (historically Ramasamudra) in western Bengaluru. While the village sits on the western side of a lake, a historical inscription lies on its eastern side, along a small, quiet road. Dated October 26, 1340 CE, this stone remains one of the clearest records of the "spirit of the commons".

Modern urban planning often views water through the lens of utility — litres per capita or real estate value. But in the 14th-century, Cheneyanayaka, who built Ramasandra, had a different vision, which was radically inclusive. According to the inscription, Cheneyanayaka spent 3,000 Honnus (gold coins) to build the lake, which was not merely an irrigation tank. Though these bodies were technically human-made tanks (*keres*), Cheneyanayaka saw them as a cosmic sanctuary for gods, humans, monkeys, animals and birds. It was an acknowledgement that the right to water was not a human monopoly but a shared terrestrial inheritance. Central to this vision was a spiritual invitation to the goddess Ganga to reside in the lake.

One among the lines inscribed on the stone at Ramasandra contains the original Kannada invocation. It reads: *Shri Gangadeviya rupavangoondu purna tatakavagi nelisi nalihuttire*, which means "May the full lake, through the merit of building it, be the eternal home of Goddess Ganga, providing water for all beings forever."

By making water sacred, the community ensured the lake's protection. To harm the *dharma* of the lake was equated to the grave sin of killing a Kapile (sacred cow) on the banks of the Ganga at Kashi.

Researchers have also identified a network of ancient lakes in Bengaluru with documented histories spanning over a millennium. While many are familiar with later landmarks like Ulsoor Lake (1800) or Sankey Tank (1882), inscriptions reveal a deeper, pre-17th-century foundation for Bengaluru's water system. A chronological study of these stone grants reveals a continuous tradition of lake building, with over 30 major water bodies specifically recorded between 8th and 16th centuries.

The divine guardians

An older tradition (7th–10th centuries) involved installing Durga idols in lakebeds as 'divine guardians'. This is confirmed through the Bhoopsandra Durga inscription at Hebbal Lake (800 CE). Similar idols have been found at Begur, Dodda Gubbi, Kalkere and Old Hesaraghatta, where the goddess stood as the first line of ecological defence.

Between 1300 and 1600 CE, the suffix *sandra* (a local version of *Samudra*, or sea) became a hallmark of the landscape, marking a period of lake expansion. This suffix, thus appears in over 50 localities, such as Hongasandra, Allalasandra and Chokkasandra.

Sites like Agara, Bellandur and Iblur (870 CE) formed the region's agrarian backbone, with stone inscriptions documenting their construction of their sluice gates. Later records confirm the antiquity of Pattandur (1043 CE) and Madivala Tavarekere (1247 CE).

The 14th-century Ramasamudra inscription stone, guarding the "spirit of the commons", in Western Bengaluru.

Sustainable engineering

Bengaluru sits on a high-altitude ridge, and our ancestors, over the millennia, utilised the natural topography of four main valleys: Hebbal, Vrishabhavathi, Arkavathi and Koramangala-Challaghatta. The engineering was as sophisticated as it was sustainable.

By constructing a series of cascading tanks, the builders ensured that the overflow from one lake flowed naturally to the next via gravity. This chain prevented flooding, stored water for dry periods, recharged wells and moderated the microclimate. It showed a deep understanding our ancestors had about the city's elevation and soil.

Ultimately, the lakes were built as an act of *punya* (spiritual merit). The Ramasamudra inscription notes that the merit belonged to Cheneyanayaka's brother, Mayileyanayaka, who was the ruler of Kukkalanadu. Although Cheneyanayaka built the lake, he attributed the *pu ya* to his brother, as is often seen in Indian tradition, where the *pu ya* of a pious act is attributed to a dear one. Water, then, was a public gift that secured the land's prosperity and the leaders' spiritual well-being.

These inscriptions could be regarded as some of the earliest examples of "environmental laws". By penalising those who polluted the water, the community safeguarded the resource for future generations. As Bengaluru faces water challenges today, the answers may lie in these centuries-old principles. The Ramasamudra stone reminds us to see water as a sacred guest, ensuring that Ganga continues to flow here — for the gods, the birds and generations of humans yet to come.

(The author is Honorary Project Director, The Bengaluru Inscriptions 3D Digital Conservation Project, The Mythic Society)

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

The majestic necropolis at Ashtur

Shashikanth S Shembelli explores the architecturally striking mausoleums of the Bahmani rulers that need urgent attention today

About 10 km from Bidar city lies Ashtur, a village that houses the tombs of several rulers of the Bahmani Sultanate, which ruled the Deccan region during the 15th and 16th centuries.

As one travels from Bidar towards Ashtur, massive mausoleums begin to appear along the approach road to the village. Standing in a row near the Bidar fort, these structures resemble the world-famous Gol Gumbaz of Vijayapura.

With their thoughtful design and striking Indo-Islamic architecture, some of these tombs feature tile decorations and inscriptions that record the details of the rulers, along with verses from the Quran and Persian poetry.

The majestic necropolis has also served as a favourite spot for photography and as a location for film shoots.

Amid the necropolis stands the mausoleum of Alauddin II Ahmad Shah, known for promoting the famous Bidariware craft. He was the son of Ahmad Shah al-Wali, the ruler who shifted the capital from Kalaburagi to Bidar. It was also during the period of Alauddin II that noted scholar and administrator Mahmud Gawan arrived in Bidar. Under his influence, the region saw notable progress in education, literature and administration.

Among the Bahmani rulers, Humayun was regarded as particularly ruthless. He was the third ruler of Bidar, and his mausoleum in Ashtur is partially damaged by lightning.

Beside it stands the tomb of Humayun's wife Nargis Begum, known as Malika-i-Jahan or Queen of the World. She played an active role in administrative affairs. Before his death, Humayun had formed a regency council of three members, including Nargis Begum. When their son Nizam Shah ascended the throne at the age of eight, she effectively managed the administration.

When Nizam Shah was 11, his marriage was arranged. However, during the wedding celebrations, the young ruler passed away, turning the festivities into mourning. Later, Nargis Begum installed her second son, Muhammad Shah III, on the throne and continued overseeing governance. The tomb of Muhammad Shah III is also located in the same complex.

In all, the funerary complex houses the tombs of eight rulers, along with those of several queens and other members of the royal family. However, none matches the grandeur of the tomb of Ahmad Shah al-Wali.

Beautiful writings, reflecting an interface of two cultures, can be found at the dargah of Ahmed Shah Wali. His memorial is regarded by Hindus as Allamprabhu's temple and by Muslims as the Wali Dargah and is home to a rare form of shared devotion. It has been adorned with graceful lines of poetry of Nimatullah, a Sufi poet, engraved in gold and other colours.

The mausoleum of Ahmad Shah al-Wali at Ashtur. PHOTO BY NAGESH PRABHA

Sight of neglect

Today, however, the site suffers from a lack of maintenance. Neither the Archaeological Survey of India nor the district administration has taken effective measures to develop the area or provide adequate facilities for visitors. Bushes have grown around the monuments, and there are no guides to explain their historical significance.

Every year, the birth anniversary of Ahmad Shah aI-Wali is celebrated as Sandal Sharif (fair) at Ashtur. This year, the 609th Sandal Sharif Urs began at the dargah of Hazrat Sultan Ahmad Shah Wali in the village on March 5 and will continue until March 15 with various religious programmes.

On his birth anniversary day, the Sandal Sharif ceremony is held at the tomb. The tomb is cleaned with rose water and decorated with floral *chadars*, followed by devotional recitations.

The massive mausoleums of the Bahmani rulers at Ashtur near Bidar. PHOTO BY LOKESH V BIRADAR

Traditional drums that define a festival

Shrinidhi R writes about Halagi and Jaggalagi, traditional instruments integral to Holi celebrations in Kittur Karnataka, which are gradually being replaced by fibre versions

In the towns and villages of Kittur Karnataka, Holi is not just about clouds of colour. The festival comes alive with a sound — the deep, thunderous rhythm of traditional drums echoing through the streets.

Instruments like Halagi and Jaggalagi have long been an inseparable part of Holi celebrations here. Their powerful beats herald the festival's arrival, energising the crowd.

Halagi, a hand-held percussion instrument, produces sharp and energetic beats that set the tone for folk dances during festivals and processions. Jaggalagi, larger and louder, produces a booming rhythm that resonates across entire neighbourhoods. Made by affixing leather to the wheels of a bullock cart, the Jaggalagi is rolled by performers as they move in formations and strike it rhythmically to keep the tempo.

For generations, folk performers travelled from village to village carrying these instruments, performing during festivals, fairs and cultural gatherings. The craft of making them was passed down through generations, turning instrument-making into both a cultural inheritance and a source of livelihood.

Changing soundscape

In recent years, however, the traditional leather drums have increasingly been replaced by fibre instruments. Sold in cities such as Hubballi, Dharwad, Bagalkot, Haveri and Belagavi, they are cheaper, lighter and easier to produce. Traders from towns like Shiggaon, Mundargi, Nargund and Miraj in Maharashtra get large numbers of these fibre drums during the festive season.

Artistes perform with Jaggalagi during Holi in Hubballi; A woman sells Halagi in Dharwad. PHOTOS BY GOVINDRAJ JAVALI

Performers and artisans, who once spent days carefully preparing leather, stretching it over wooden frames and tuning each instrument by hand, see the shift as a fading cultural legacy.

"Fibre drums are produced in factories," says Manjunath Bagarikar, a drummaker. "Even though we sell them to earn our livelihood, most of the profit goes to the factories. If people used leather instruments, artisans like us would earn a living."

Many families like that of Manjunath's which specialise in crafting and repairing traditional musical instruments are forced to sell factory-produced drums to survive. According to them, leather instrument-making requires time, skill and effort.

Finding good-quality leather has also become difficult, making traditional drums more expensive. But while drums prepared using leather produce a crisp and resonant sound that is moderate in nature, with thicker leather giving a deeper bass tone, fibre drums are generally louder and have high overtones that are often noisy and sharp.

Annapppa Shettannavar, who has been making leather Halagi for four decades, says demand has declined sharply. "I have been making and selling leather Halagis for 40 years. But in recent years, because of fibre Halagi, nobody asks for leather ones."

Drum-making by these families continues throughout the year. Preparing a medium-sized Halagi takes over 10 days, while a Jaggalagi requires more than three weeks. The craft reaches its peak during the summer, coinciding with Holi and the numerous large fairs held across North Karnataka.

Cultural appeal intact

Despite these changes, the cultural appeal of these instruments remains strong. Even today, a Jaggalagi performance has a magnetic effect on crowds. With five troupes, Sulla village near Hubballi has emerged as a vibrant hub for Jaggalagi.

The village's performers travel widely, participating in cultural events across North Karnataka.

One of the best-known groups of the village is the Shri Siddharoodha Jaggalagi troupe. Led by Shankarappa Madar, the troupe has carried the sound of Jaggalagi across the state. The group has until now performed in over 200 shows in the state and at national-level events in Manipur and Delhi.

"Making and playing the Jaggalagi is an art passed down from my ancestors. Maintaining the rhythm while moving forward is a challenge," says Shankarappa Madar.

"People now recognise us through the Jaggalagi. It has also become our livelihood," he adds, noting that he is teaching the art to his son and to others interested in keeping the tradition alive.

Recognising the cultural importance of these instruments, some individuals and organisations too are making efforts to revive interest in them.

In 2012, Shankar Shelke, an artist and art promoter, launched Halagi Habba in Dharwad as part of Holi celebrations.

Similarly, cultural groups in Hubballi, with support from elected representatives, have started organising Jaggalagi Habba, an event dedicated to showcasing the power and artistry of the instrument. These festivals aim not only to celebrate the music, instruments and artistes but also the cultural legacy behind it.

Bengaluru Thursday, March 12, 2026 Pages 18 Vol 79 No 71 ₹7

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The Power of Good

Farooq Abdullah, J-K DyCM escape unhurt in attack by gunman

Page 8

World P.11

Nepal's RSP gets most votes under proportional system

Business

Banks move cautiously to adopt AI agents: Survey P.12

State

RTPS faces Rs 76 cr penalty P.4

State

Lingaraj Patil quits BJP post P.5

■ Bench finds that brain injury after falling from the fourth floor left him in vegetative state and medical reports showed his condition has not improved in the past 13 years

■ Court emphasises the right to die with dignity is inseparable from the right to receive quality palliative and end-of-life care

■ Bench says the applicant has lived a life defined by pain and suffering, stripped of his ability to even voice his anguish

■ Court orders the medical treatment, being administered to the applicant, would be withdrawn

In a first, SC okays passive euthanasia of 32-yr-old man

Allows plea by kin of UP man in vegetative state for 13 years

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed passive euthanasia for a 32-year-old man who has remained in a permanent vegetative state for over a decade, on a plea by his family members, after noting they have exhausted every effort to care for him and continued to do so with unwavering dedication.

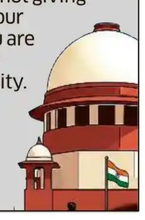
A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan said it is the first judicial implementation of its 2018 Common Cause judgment, which recognised the right to die with dignity.

In a first such order, the court emphasised the right to die with dignity is inseparable from the right to receive quality palliative and end of life care.

"Our decision today does not neatly fit within logic and reason alone. It sits in a space between love, loss, medicine and mercy. This decision is not about choosing death, but is rather one of not artificially prolonging life. It is the decision to withdraw life sustaining treatment when that treatment no longer heals, restores, or meaningfully improves life. It is allowing nature to take its course when medicine can only delay the inevitable because survival is not always the same as living," the bench said.

> Our decision today does not neatly fit within logic and reason alone. It sits in a space between love, loss, medicine and mercy

> You are not giving up on your son. You are allowing him to leave with dignity. It reflects the depth of your selfless love and devotion towards him



On January 15, the court reserved for judgment a plea by the family of Harish Rana, a resident of Ghaziabad, who has been in a vegetative state for nearly 13 years, to withdraw life-support to him.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, represented the Union government, and advocate Rashmi Nandakumar the family of Harish, who has been sustaining life only on Clinically Administered Nutrition (CAN) administered through surgically installed PEG tubes.

The court noted the patient's parents and the primary and secondary medical boards have concluded that the CAN administered should be discontinued, as it is not in his best interest. The bench ordered the treatment, being administered, would be withdrawn and/or withheld.

The court directed AIIMS to grant admission to the applicant in its palliative care department so that the withdrawal and/or withholding of the applicant's medical treatment can be given effect to.

▸ Euthanasia, Page 5

SC: Enact legislation on euthanasia

The Supreme Court on Wednesday called on the Union government to consider enacting a comprehensive legislation on the subject of passive euthanasia in consonance with the vision of the judgment given by the Constitution bench in Common Cause case of 2018. Page 8

DH DECIPHERS SC ruling on passive euthanasia and what the law says P8

STRAIT TARGET: 20 rescued from Thai bulk carrier; 4 hurt in strike on Dubai airport

Gujarat-bound ship hit, 3 missing as Iran targets vessels; India slams attack

WAR SHOCKS

DUBAI/NEW DELHI, AP & DHNS

As the widening conflict in West Asia has already killed at least two seafarers from India, New Delhi on Wednesday condemned Iran's attack on a Thai-flagged bulk carrier, Mayuree Naree, which was on its way to Kandla Port in Gujarat on Wednesday.

A projectile hit the Thai cargo ship off the coast of Oman in the Strait of Hormuz, setting it ablaze. Authorities are searching for three missing crew members from the Mayuree Naree after 20 were rescued by the Omani navy, according to Thailand's Marine Department.

Iran also struck a Liberian-flagged container ship Express Rome and targeted Dubai International Airport, injuring four people.

In Delhi, India deplored the fact that commercial shipping is being made a target, the Ministry of External Affairs stated, taking note of the attack on Mayuree Naree in the Straits of Hormuz when it was on its way to Kandla.

Two Indians were killed and another went missing earlier in the conflict, Randhir Jaiswal, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson said.

▸ Ship, Page 4

Thai bulk carrier 'Mayuree Naree' on fire after it was attacked. AFP

West Asia conflict

Deloitte, PwC, Citi evacuate Dubai financial district after Iran threats

- Iran deploys about a dozen mines in the Strait of Hormuz
- Iran's new supreme leader injured but 'safe'
- UN urges 'humanitarian exemptions' to get aid through Strait of Hormuz
- IEA says members to release 400 mn barrels from oil reserves
- Oil storage facilities hit in Oman's Salalah port
- Iran warns ready for long war that would 'destroy' world economy

28 Indian ships stuck in Gulf

The Centre on Wednesday said that as many as 28 Indian vessels with 778 seafarers onboard are stuck in the Persian Gulf amid conflict in West Asia. Details on Page 9

Trump: Nothing left for US in Iran

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday again said there could be a swift end to the war, saying there is little left in Iran for US to attack.

Normal delivery cycle maintained: Govt on domestic LPG bookings

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Amid reports of LPG supply disruptions and people rushing to buy cooking gas cylinders, the Centre on Wednesday tried to reassure the public by stating that there is no need for panic booking and that the normal delivery cycle of 2.5 days is being maintained.

"Feedback suggests some panic booking and hoarding behaviour by misinformation. I want to clarify that our normal delivery cycle for domestic LPG remains around two-and-a-half days, so I request...there is no need for customers to rush-book the cylinders...there is no need for panic booking," Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, told reporters at a briefing.

She insisted that the government's measures have led to a 25% rise in LPG production.

▸ LPG bookings, Page 5

Curbs may hit 1,500 units

Nearly 1,500 industries and commercial establishments in Karnataka that depend on piped natural gas (PNG) are likely to be affected, as industry sources anticipate supply disruptions. P 3A

Tourism bears the brunt

Uncertainty over flights, particularly those transiting through Dubai or originating from Gulf countries, is severely impacting the tourism sector. Nearly 75% of bookings are cancelled since March 1. P 3A

Quick service chains hit

LPG disruption has exposed operational risks in India's food service sector. About 65% of cooking at major quick service restaurants depends on LPG. They have buffer of one-two weeks of supply. P 12

'DMK famous for corruption'

CHENNAI, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi tore into the DMK on Wednesday, saying that it was famous for its "scientific corruption model", accusing it of betraying the people's mandate it got in 2021. PM Modi said this while addressing a rally in Tiruchirapalli.

Govt reviewing policy on 'water, energy guzzling' data centres

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka is reviewing its policy on data centres amid concerns over huge environmental costs, particularly their water and energy needs, IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge told the Assembly on Wednesday.

Priyank said this in response to a question by Doddaballapur BJP MLA Dheeraj Muniraj, who said Bengaluru was losing out on data centres as companies were moving to other Indian cities.

He urged the government to set up data centre parks, especially in his Doddaballapur constituency.

"We have 32 private data centres functioning in the state. We already have a data centre policy, which we're reviewing," Priyank said.

"Data centres are a necessary evil. They are needed for AI, machine learning and emerging technologies. But data centres are also heavy water and energy guzzlers," the minister said.

Explaining the economics of data centres, Priyank said, "One megawatt needs about Rs 70 crore. One acre can yield one megawatt. We have to spend 25 million litres per megawatt per year for one data centre. Five questions to ChatGPT will consume 500 ml of water."

However, new technologies have emerged that involve using treated water at data centres, Priyank said. "That's why we'll relook at our policy, which is 2-3 years old," he said.

The government, Priyank said, is looking at a "sustainable data centre" policy.

"Our focus is on Mangaluru and the coastal areas. Hyperscale data centres won't suit Bengaluru, which doesn't have a port and faces a shortage of water," he said, adding that data centres requiring above 40 megawatt power will be hyperscale.

Priyank said he is talking to private companies about laying sub-sea cables in the coastal region.

▸ Data centres, Page 4

IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge replying to a question in the Assembly on Wednesday.

No-trust motion against Birla rejected amid din in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Lok Sabha on Wednesday rejected the no-trust resolution moved by the Opposition against Speaker Om Birla by a voice vote amid vociferous protests against Union Home Minister Amit Shah's comments on Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi.

During his reply to the two-day-long discussions to the motion, Shah made a spirited defence of the Speaker and later turned his attention to Rahul. Protests broke out when Shah made certain remarks. Presiding chair Jagdambika Pal said that he would expunge any unparliamentary words.

Details on Page 9

Reliance to invest in US oil refinery: Trump

WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI, PTI: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries will partner in building the first new oil refinery in the US in 50 years, US President Donald Trump said, calling it the "biggest in US history".

The new refinery will be located in Brownsville, Texas, and will be designed to run entirely on US shale oil, according to America First Refining (AFR) -- the firm piloting the project.

Reliance has signed a 20-year agreement to purchase fuels produced at the refinery, with groundbreaking for the project scheduled in the second quarter of 2026.

Reliance did not immediately offer any comments.

Details on Page 12

State panel to conduct full-scale mock demonstration to assess match-day preparation at the Chinnaswamy Stadium on March 13
RCB to host SRH in
IPL opener
20 matches 10 venues
The first phase of the 19th edition from Mar 28-Apr 12
RCB schedule
MARCH 28* vs SRH
APRIL 4* vs CSK
APRIL 10 vs RR
APRIL 12 vs MI
During this period, there will be 4 double-headers with the opening match scheduled at 3.30 pm
The matches in Bengaluru are subject to clearance from the Expert Committee constituted by the Karnataka govt
* The first 2 RCB matches are at home
Slice

All RCB matches start @ 7.30 pm

Quickly

SC: Form panel on NCERT legal studies course

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Centre to constitute a committee of domain experts within a week to finalise the curriculum related to legal studies in NCERT textbooks. The top court said it was worried by NCERT's stand that the chapter containing the "offending" content on corruption in the judiciary had been "rewritten".

Details on Page 10

108 Maoists surrender in Ch'garh

As many as 108 Maoists carrying a collective reward of Rs 3.95 crore surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district on Wednesday, officials said. Besides, a huge stock of weapons, Rs 3.61 crore in cash and one kg of gold valued at about Rs 1.64 crore were recovered from Maoist dumps.

Details on Page 10

Plane wheels detach after hard landing

An Air India Express Boeing 737 MAX plane, carrying 138 people from Hyderabad, made a hard landing at Phuket on Wednesday, and its two nose wheels got detached. There was no injuries.

NIA seeks lifer for Kashmiri separatist

The NIA has sought life imprisonment for Kashmiri separatist and Dukhtaran-e-Millat chief Asiya Andrabi following her conviction in a UAPA case, saying she had waged war against India.

ED searches over IDFC First Bank 'fraud'

The ED registered a money laundering case and conducted searches at 19 locations on Wednesday in connection with alleged embezzlement of Rs 590 crore from the Haryana government's accounts maintained with IDFC First Bank.

Details on Page 10

Kerala CM, ministers skip PM's event

Kerala on Wednesday witnessed political drama as CM Pinarayi Vijayan and other ministers stayed away from PM Modi's event, expressing displeasure over the exclusion of PWD minister .

6,789 startups shut till January

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada on Wednesday said that a total of 6,789 recognised startups have closed, with the IT sector recording the highest number. "As of January 31, a total of 2,12,283 entities have been recognised as startups by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. Of these, 6,789 recognised startups are categorised as closed," Prasada told the Lok Sabha.

Details on Page 12

PROBLEM OF PLENTY

Glut in market brings down fruit prices in Bengaluru

DH SPECIAL

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Fruit prices in Bengaluru have tumbled significantly due to bumper harvests and increased market supply.

Seasonal fruits like watermelons, muskmelons, and bananas have seen the biggest fall, said sources. Due to this, the farmers are staring at heavy losses, and many are struggling to recover cultivation costs.

Watermelon, which was being sold at Rs 14 per kg a week ago by farmers, has come down to Rs 7 per kg.

Devaraju, a farmer, told *DH*, "I grew watermelons expecting a decent return, but the rates have crashed to Rs 2 per kg for some varieties. Meanwhile, retailers in the city are selling them for Rs 20 to Rs 30 per kg."

Retailers at the KR Market confirmed that banana prices have seen a significant dip.

"Banana prices are down by Rs 15 to 20 per kg compared to last month. The summer crop arrival is very high," said a fruit vendor.

The market data for the Binnypet APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) on March 10, 2026, showed a significant increase in the supply of several fruits compared to the same period in 2025.

Pineapple has seen the biggest increase. The supply has doubled from 326 quintals to 680 quintals, followed by pomegranate, which surged from 1,947 quintals to 3,115 quintals. Muskmelons and watermelons also saw an increase from 2,371 to 2,480 and 1,323 to 1,480 quintals.

▸ Fruit prices, Page 4

Mango growers explore US, UK markets

Alphonso mango growers from Dharwad, Belagavi and parts of Haveri are looking at United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore to sell their produce due to the West Asia war.

Details on Page 8

Bittersweet

Fruits	2025 Prices*	Current Prices*
Watermelon	40	30
Banana (Yelakki)	140 to 150	120 to 130
Musk Melon	60	40
Pomegranate	140	120
Grapes (Black)	185	150
Pineapple	50 to 70	50 to 60

*Per Kg in Rupees

GBA to scrutinise congestion at Kaggadasapura level crossing

BENGALURU, DHNS: Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials on Wednesday assured Kaggadasapura residents that their long-pending demand for a railway underbridge or overpass would be examined.

Residents urged the authority to provide a solution, noting that K-RIDE is implementing a suburban railway project in the area.

M Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of GBA, directed engineers to conduct a detailed study of the site and submit a design to address the traffic congestion.

The site falls under the Bengaluru Central City Corporation.

Later, Rao inspected the area under the Kasturi Nagar flyover, which was filled with debris. He directed engineers to ensure the place is kept clean at all times.

He also instructed regular maintenance of arterial and sub-arterial roads, and asked officials to take steps to make the corporation free of garbage blackspots.

Additional Commissioner (Development) of the Central City Corporation Daljit Kumar, Joint Commissioner Ranganath, COO of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited Ramamani, and Chief Engineers Vijay Kumar Haridas and Krishnamurthy were present during the inspection.

|| Obeisance to Sri Ramakrishnayate || Founded: 1997

Sri Ramakrishna Vidyashrama (R)

STATE & CBSE SYLLABUS

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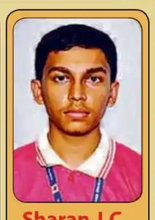
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GBA rolls out advanced AI training for IT team

Civic body hires consultants for Claude AI & Cursor training

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has decided to convert its IT wing into an AI-enabled development team.

The civic body is seeking consultants to train its 35-member IT team to use Claude AI and Cursor for coding and editing. In the first phase, five engineers will undergo training.

"Our engineers should upgrade their skills to match industry developments. Hence, we want to train them formally to use AI tools," a senior GBA official said.

GBA Special Commissioner (Revenue and IT) Munish Moudgil said the move will increase the team's productivity 10-fold.

Officials clarified that consultants will only train GBA developers and will not be involved in developing applications.

"The objective is to train and upskill an initial cohort of up to five engineers in AI-assisted development using tools such as Claude Code and Cursor, with a focus on practical, hands-on application to real departmental projects," another official said.

"The goal is not to build software on behalf of the department, but to make the existing team materially more productive."

In recent years, the GBA IT team has developed several applications to handle various tasks, including 'B' to 'A' khata conversion, issuing e-khata and delimitation of wards.

While the civic body has more than 50 mobile applications developed for various purposes, many were outsourced to third-party companies. In recent years, officials have insisted on developing the apps in-house, saying AI use could improve the team's efficiency.

"With AI, the IT team will undergo a huge change," Moudgil added.

With five new corporations, the need to develop new citizen-centric applications may increase, and adopting AI could help the team work faster, sources said.

81 tax-default properties up for auction on Friday

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru North City Corporation has identified 81 properties that have defaulted on property tax payment and will place them for auction.

Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar said the auction will be held at Yelahanka Mini Vidhana Soudha on Friday at 3 pm.

"Within the corporation's jurisdiction, 47 properties have tax arrears of Rs 1.32 crore in Zone 1. In Zone 2, 34 properties owe Rs 62 lakh. In total, tax arrears of Rs 1.94 crore are pending from 81 properties," the commissioner said.

This is the second attempt to auction the properties.

On March 6, no bidders came forward and the corporation retained them temporarily.

Under the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act 2025, property owners within the corporation limits must pay property tax every financial year. The 2024 Property Tax Assessment, Collection and Administration Rules allow authorities to auction properties to recover unpaid dues.

Officials said show-cause and demand notices were issued to property tax defaulters, and details are available on the corporation's official website.

"Even after providing sufficient opportunities, the dues were not cleared. Hence, these properties will be subjected to distress sale (auction)," the corporation said.

If owners clear pending property tax before the auction, their properties will be removed from the auction list. Owners may also raise objections with the respective Joint Commissioner's office.

Kempegowda Layout to come under RERA ambit

Karnataka Real Estate Appellate Tribunal dismisses BDA appeal

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a setback to the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout will now come under the ambit of the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), after the Karnataka Real Estate Appellate Tribunal (K-REAT) dismissed the BDA's appeal against K-RERA's November 2025 order.

The tribunal held that the BDA qualifies as a "promoter" under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016.

In an order dated March 3, the tribunal observed that the provisions of the RERA Act are "squarely applicable" to the BDA. It also rejected the authority's contention that K-RERA's order was issued "without jurisdiction".

The Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout.
DH FILE PHOTO

On November 7, 2025, K-RERA, while hearing multiple complaints filed by allottees of the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout project, had ruled that the BDA — while developing land and allotting sites to the public for consideration — falls within the definition of a promoter under the Act. The authority had also held that the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout qualifies as an "ongoing real estate project" under the Act and must therefore, be registered under RERA.

Challenging the order, the BDA filed a series of appeals before the appellate tribunal under Section 44 of the Act. The authority argued that it is a statutory planning body and questioned K-RERA's jurisdiction over its layout development activities.

The tribunal, comprising Judicial Member Santhosh Kumar Shetty N and Administrative Member Mahendra Jain, heard the matter and admitted the appeals for consideration. However, it held that it found no fault with K-RERA's order, stating that it was in consonance with the law laid down by the Supreme Court.

HC issues notice to state, GBA over self-LED advertisements

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday issued a notice to the state government, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), and the five newly created city corporations on a public interest litigation (PIL) concerning self-LED advertisements in the city.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha also issued notices to the Bengaluru City Police, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), and Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom), and adjourned the matter to June 18 for further hearing.

The petitioner, K Laxmana, a retired LRDE and DRDO official, contended that the BBMP/GBA had granted permission for installing self-LED advertisements on private properties in violation of Section 158 of the BBMP Act, 2020.

According to the petition, in 2018, following directions of the High Court in a PIL, the BBMP council had adopted the Outdoor Signage and Public Messaging Bylaws, which imposed a complete ban on commercial hoardings in Bengaluru on environmental and safety grounds.

"The proliferation of these self-LED advertisements constitutes visual pollution. The GBA rules fail to prescribe any mechanism for oversight by the KSPCB to monitor and regulate them.

"Even the Bengaluru Traffic Police have no supervisory role in granting these LED hoardings, despite obvious traffic safety implications," it stated.

Create BDA logo & tagline, win Rs 1 lakh

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), which completed 50 years earlier this year, has announced a Rs 1 lakh prize for the best logo and tagline.

The contest is open to Kannadigas aged 18 years and above. Design students, amateur designers, professionals and creative agencies are encouraged to participate, the press note said. The winning logo and tagline will be used across BDA layouts, housing complexes, official website, signage and official communication materials. Each participant can submit one logo and one tagline.

Taglines may be submitted in Kannada, English or both languages.

The logo must be submitted in high resolution JPEG, PNG or PDF formats. Taglines must reflect the BDA's mission and vision and must be original.

Entries generated using AI tools or copied from other sources will be disqualified, the release said. Entries must be submitted through the website https://bdakarnataka.in. The last date for submission is March 24.

Central Corporation reviews MG Road asphalting work

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Central City Corporation on Wednesday reviewed ongoing development works, including the asphalting of MG Road.

Corporation Commissioner P Rajendra Cholan directed the engineers to complete the work ahead of the monsoon season.

Engineers of the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) were also present. During the meeting, the corporation reviewed the proposal of building skywalks.

Warden smuggles drugs into jail

BENGALURU, DHNS: Prison warden Prakash Gavade has been booked by the police for allegedly smuggling cash and narcotics into Parappana Agrahara Central Prison.

A routine frisk found suspicious items on him.

Officials recovered Rs 1,610 and packages containing a white narcotic substance and a tobacco-like item hidden in his clothes and undergarments.

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

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South Corp shuts 7 businesses for operating without licence

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru South City Corporation on Wednesday sealed seven business establishments for operating without a trade licence. The establishments included a granite godown, catering facility, fabricators, garage, and units dealing in plywood and lamination.

In a press note, the health officer said the corporation had conducted a survey of establishments operating on Pillaganahalli Main Road in Gottigere ward.

The survey found that 145 establishments were operating without a trade licence. Subsequently, the corporation issued notices directing them to obtain licences or face closure.

On Wednesday, the corporation sealed the seven establishments that continued to operate without obtaining the required licence.

Doctors warn painkiller overuse can harm kidneys

Say unsupervised NSAID users form common group they treat

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

For many young professionals, popping a painkiller for a headache after a long day at work or swallowing a tablet for back pain before bed has become a routine.

The growing unregulated dependence on over-the-counter painkillers is one of the reasons for kidney damage.

On World Kidney Day (March 12), nephrologists are expected to highlight that patients with prolonged and unsupervised use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) form a common group they treat."

Speaking to *DH*, Dr Topoti Mukherjee, Lead Consultant, Nephrology, said, "Analgesic nephropathy is a kind of kidney damage caused by long term use of NSAIDs. These drugs can cause long-term kidney damage in both acute and chronic settings."

Dr Anil Kumar BT, HOD and Senior Consultant Nephrologist and Chief Transplant Physician, said, "We do see many young professionals taking pain killers for body pain. They take medical advice from Google and buy the medications and consume it without medical supervision."

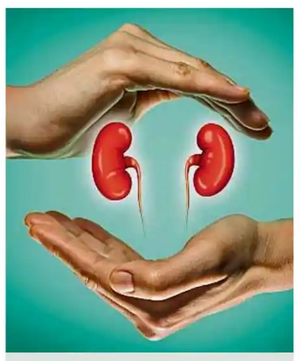
The continuous consumption of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen, naproxen and diclofenac is among the common causes of kidney damage.

"On an average, medication for a headache can be consumed two to three times a week, but anything more than that should be immediately consulted.

"If they have other issues such as hypertension or diabetes, they have to prohibit consuming these drugs for a longer time," said Dr Mohammed Suhail K, Department of General Medicine.

Doctors also said kidney issues are often silent in the early stages and detected only later, leading to higher rates of failure.

"Only in later stages, they may develop symptoms like a decrease in urine quantity, swelling of the feet, itching over the body, breathing difficulty, loss of appetite, sleep and vomiting," said Dr Kishan A, Consultant, Nephrology.



DR MOHAMMED SUHAIL K
Department of General Medicine

"On an average, medication for a headache can be consumed two to three times a week, but anything more than that should be immediately consulted. If they have other issues such as hypertension or diabetes, they have to prohibit consuming these drugs for a longer time.

Road rage: BCA student attacked in Marathahalli

BENGALURU, DHNS: A minor accident on the Outer Ring Road in Marathahalli led to an assault early Monday, leaving a 22-year-old motorist injured.

A senior police officer said the complainant Kushal Raj, a resident of KR Puram, was riding his scooter with a friend when the incident occurred around noon.

An autorickshaw parked on the roadside allegedly took a sudden right turn without using an indicator, causing Raj to lose control and fall.

When Raj questioned the driver, the auto driver and the passenger picked a quarrel and abused him.

Was hit with helmet

During the altercation, they snatched his helmet and hit him on the head and nose, leaving him severely injured.

Raj alerted the 112-emergency helpline. Police rushed to the spot and took the auto driver to the station for interrogation, while the passenger escaped.

The victim, a BCA student at a private college, was taken to a private hospital for treatment. He later lodged a formal complaint.

Economic survey flags spike in leptospirosis cases in Karnataka

19 deaths reported last year alone

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Leptospirosis cases have risen sharply in Karnataka, with the Economic Survey for 2025-26 reporting 19 deaths in the past year.

Over the past five years, the state has reported more than 16,000 cases and 30 deaths, with the numbers increasing each year.

Year-wise data shows a steady rise in cases: 544 in 2020, 906 in 2021, 3,174 in 2022, 5,404 in 2023, 5,088 in 2024, and 6,525 in 2025, with 19 deaths last year.

Leptospirosis is a zoonotic bacterial disease transmitted by contact with urine from infected animals or contaminated water or soil. Complications include kidney failure, liver failure and meningitis.

Dr Siri M Kamath, Consultant, Internal Medicine, noted that the disease is underreported as it is often mistaken for dengue or malaria.

"Early symptoms are non-specific. Patients often have fever, headache and body aches, which can be mistaken for viral fever, dengue or malaria. Because symptoms overlap, leptospirosis may not be suspected immediately," she said.

She said that specific tests are needed to distinguish leptospirosis from malaria and dengue.

Lab testing

"Definitive diagnosis requires lab testing. The IgM ELISA is a screening test for antibodies. The Microscopic Agglutination Test (MAT) is the principal reference, but is done in specialised labs. In the early phase, PCR tests can detect bacterial DNA in blood or urine," Dr Siri said.

"Supportive findings such as elevated liver enzymes, renal function changes and thrombocytopenia are considered. Direct antigen detection is an alternative in some cases."

The infection can be fatal if not treated promptly.

"The infection can cause kidney failure, reducing urine output. The liver may be affected, leading to jaundice. In some cases, it can spread to the lungs, causing breathing problems or internal bleeding. The brain may also be affected, leading to meningitis, confusion or severe headaches."

About leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a zoonotic bacterial disease spread through contact with urine of infected animals or contaminated water/soil. Severe cases can lead to kidney failure, liver failure, and meningitis.

DRAMATIC RISE

- Karnataka's cases of Leptospirosis have risen nearly **12 times** in five years – from **544 cases** in 2020 to **6,525** in 2025.
- More than **40%** of all cases in the past five years were reported in the last year alone.
- The sharpest jump happened between **2021** and **2022**, when cases more than tripled.

Bangalore University conducts first online exams for DODE courses

BENGALURU, DHNS

For the first time, the Bangalore University's Directorate of Online and Distance Education (DODE) successfully conducted examinations in online mode, monitored through Artificial Intelligence (AI) to ensure transparency for undergraduate and postgraduate courses on Wednesday.

According to the details available, over 870 students appeared for the examinations conducted online. Candidates were allowed to take the exams from their homes for their convenience.

Of those who appeared from their residences, 697 students were from Bengaluru, 123 from other parts of Karnataka, and 48 students were from outside the state. One student each attended the examination from Dubai and Australia.

Officials said that the question papers were uploaded online 10 minutes before the commencement of the examination. After completing the exam, candidates were required to upload scanned copies of their answer scripts.

Muralidhara BL, Director of DODE, said, "For the first time we tried this as the University Grants Commission (UGC) has provisions to conduct examinations under distance and online learning in remote mode. There was no room for malpractice as the exams were monitored through AI, and any suspicious movement by students was flagged to the examiners."

However, it was an in-camera exam and was also monitored by invigilators. One proctor was assigned for every 25 students, who monitored candidates through the system, Muralidhara clarified.

For students who did not have access to attend the exam online, BU arranged facilities at the Jnanabharathi campus.

INNOVATION

Engg students design 3D parakeet to feed rescued chicks

BENGALURU, DHNS

A 3D-printed biomimetic 'parakeet' has helped save several chicks rescued by a wildlife hospital.

The rescue centre run by People for Animals (PFA) recently received 46 orphaned chicks. Conventional feeding methods were stressful and risked affecting their natural behaviour.

Aeronautical engineering students from Gopal College of Engineering and Management developed a 3D-printed biomimetic device that resembles a mother bird.

"The (device) has transformed our rehabilitation process for these fragile chicks, drastically reducing stress and improving their survival rates," said Col Nawaz Shariff, General Manager, PFA Wildlife Hospital.

Sunita Prabhakar, Director of Gopalan Foundation, said the project channeled technical skills into empathetic solutions.

Col Nawaz Shariff uses a 3D-printed feeding device to care for a parakeet chick, gently held by Abhilash R at PFA Wildlife Hospital in Bengaluru. PHOTO: PFA

Fire reported at Sanjay Gandhi Hospital

BENGALURU, DHNS: A fire was reported at the Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma and Orthopaedics in Jayanagar on Wednesday morning.

The fire broke out in the auditorium around 9.30 am. Hospital staff quickly brought the situation under control using fire extinguishers available on the premises.

Dr Dharani Chitra DM of Sanjay Gandhi Hospital said the incident was minor and was caused by a short circuit in an air conditioner.

Medical Education and Skill Development Minister Dr Sharanprakash Patil visited the hospital following the incident and took stock of the situation.

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> Karnataka requires around 1,000 metric tonnes of commercial LPG daily, which is equivalent to about 50,000 commercial cylinders (19 kg). For domestic use, the state needs about 5,000 metric tonnes or nearly 3.5 lakh household cylinders (14.2 kg) daily.
>
> **K H MUNIYAPPA,** Food & Civil Supplies Minister

> The quantity of purchase is in tankers and not just single cylinders. Since every business activity is linked to each other, there will be a wider effect from increase in raw material cost to that of final product.
>
> **ARIF H M,** past president of Peenya Industries Association

> Every year, traders from Vasai and Surat visit in January and book the mango orchards. They get the fruits plucked, packed in boxes and export them to the Middle East through the Goa port. This time, after visiting the orchards, the traders have not returned.
>
> **SHARANAPPA MALIPATIL,** a mango grower.

> We are cumulatively trying to book cylinders online. But for every 10 cylinders we book, we are receiving only two or three.
>
> **ARUN KUMAR D T,** president of the PG Owners Welfare Association.

> Our Dubai season runs from September to end of May. Due to prevailing conditions, we cancelled planned departures. We are now focusing on destinations like Bali, Vietnam and Thailand.
>
> **SUBRAHMANYA H P,** regional incharge of Vikram Travels and Resorts India Pvt Ltd.

> We've been trying to book a cylinder since Tuesday evening. But the call keeps getting disconnected and their WhatsApp chat is also not working.
>
> **ISMAIL,** a Rajajinagar resident.

No shortage of domestic LPG, assures minister

Things under control: Don't panic and hoard cylinders, Muniyappa tells people

BENGALURU, DHNS

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister K H Muniyappa on Wednesday said that there is no shortage of domestic LPG cylinders in the state, but the supply of commercial cylinders will face disruption.

Speaking after a meeting with the officials of oil and gas companies, including Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum and GAIL (India) Limited at Vasanth Nagar, the minister said that the ongoing war in West Asia has disrupted international shipping routes, specifically in the Gulf region.

He, however, clarified that domestic LPG supplies will remain stable and urged consumers not to panic or hoard cylinders.

"Karnataka requires around 1,000 metric tonnes of commercial LPG daily, which is equivalent to about 50,000 commercial cylinders (19 kg). For domestic use, the state needs about 5,000 metric tonnes or nearly 3.5 lakh household cylinders (14.2 kg) daily," the minister said, adding India produces only about 30% of its LPG requirement, while the remaining 60–70% is imported.

Availability status

- One domestic LPG cylinder is supplied per family every 25 days
- Priority to be given to essential services such as hospitals, schools and colleges

10 oil-carrying vessels cancelled

The minister said ten oil-carrying vessels have been cancelled due to the war. Complying with the Centre's guidelines, he said one domestic LPG cylinder is supplied per family every 25 days. "Households should use cooking gas judiciously. Consumers should avoid panic booking and use gas only when necessary. Do not book more cylinders," he said.

The minister added that domestic consumption will be given priority, while commercial supply may face temporary strain.

"We will give priority to essential services such as hospitals, schools and colleges in the distribution of commercial cylinders. Hotels and wedding halls may experience some difficulty, especially if the war continues beyond a week," he said, adding a lion's share of supply comes from the Gulf region.

Weekly review meetings

To closely monitor the situation, the minister informed that the senior officials of the department will hold weekly review meetings with oil companies.

Muniyappa also appealed to the public to cooperate with the government during the current situation and limit the usage of LPG. He recalled the period of scarcity during the tenure of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, when citizens collectively adopted austerity measures to overcome good and electricity shortage.

Emphasising conservation, the minister said a 14.2 kg domestic cylinder can last about one-and-a-half months for a family of four, if used carefully. He assured that the department will take all necessary steps to prevent any major disruption in the LPG supply and urged consumers not to panic.

"We appeal to the gas distributors to supply LPGs to the households without delay," he added.

WAR SHOCKS

TRAVEL TRAVAILS

Tourism bears the brunt as uncertainty hits flight ops in Gulf

PAVAN KUMAR H
& **NAINA J A**
HUBBALLI/MANGALURU, DHNS

Uncertainty over flight operations, particularly those transiting through Dubai or originating from Gulf countries, is severely impacting the state's tourism sector.

Nearly 75% of bookings for both inbound and outbound tourists with tour operators have been cancelled since March 1, with almost no new bookings reported to the war-affected countries.

With March to May being holiday season for Indians, a majority of outbound tourists had booked family tour packages to Arab countries and Europe. The war in West Asia has also impacted religious tours for Muslims during Ramzan.

Tour operators told *DH* that tourist arrivals this March have dropped by nearly 80% compared to previous years, especially from Israel, European countries and United States.

As Dubai serves as a key transit hub for many travellers, partial closures and frequent flight disruptions due to warnings of missile and drone attacks have hit tourism sector in the state.

Karnataka Tourism Society vice president Mahalingaiah S said March to May is the peak holiday season for outbound tourists.

"Regular cancellation of

flights and sudden changes in timings have led many to cancel their plans," he said.

He said the sector may not recover from the impact for at least two months even if hostilities end immediately.

"Tour operators in Karnataka are expecting to suffer 50% to 60% of the losses this season due to drop in inbound tourists," he said.

Vathika Pai of Nirmala Travels told *DH* that a customised holiday tour scheduled for March has been cancelled, while customised tours planned for April have been put on hold.

Subrahmanya H P, regional incharge of Vikram Travels and Resorts India Pvt Ltd, said the company had cancelled tours to Dubai till the end of May. "Our Dubai season runs from September to end of May. Due to prevailing conditions, we cancelled planned departures. We are now focusing on destinations like Bali, Vietnam and Thailand," he said.

Flight cancellations from Gulf have disrupted travel plans of many overseas Indians planning to visit their native places for Ramzan.

Advocate P A Hameed Padubidri, who works in Riyadh, said several Indians who had travelled for Umrah pilgrimage and others on tourist visas have remained stranded in the Gulf.

Tickets to India that were booked months earlier for around 400 to 500 Saudi Riyals are now available at nearly 2,500 Saudi Riyals.

Gopal, a guide in Hampi, said the number of foreign tourists visiting the heritage site had dropped drastically over the past 10 days.

The war has also impacted sea routes. Since the first cruise call in December, a total of 1,164 passengers and 820 crew members have arrived in Mangaluru. Three more cruise ships are expected to visit the port before end of tourist season.

A worker sits over LPG cylinders during distribution at a gas agency in Chikkamagaluruon Wednesday. Long queues were seen at several gas agencies amid supply shortage. PTI

Cars queue up to refill at a CNG bunk at Seshadripuram in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

A view of Auto LPG station on Mysuru Road in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

B'luru store sold 350 induction stoves on a single day

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
BENGALURU, DHNS

Home appliance stores across the city are reporting a big spike in sales and enquiries of induction stoves since Wednesday, following news of the gas supply crisis.

While Tuesday saw a slight uptick in enquiries and sales, Wednesday witnessed a sharp rise with some stores going out of stock. About 350 pieces of induction stoves were sold at a store in Jayanagar in just a day. Another store in Jayanagar sold 70 pieces on Wednesday alone.

Another store in Malleswaram has almost run out of stock. "We only have one brand left and it is priced at Rs 1,950," the salesman said. Shiva Electricals in Chickpet was left with just 2-3 pieces after unusually high demand since Tuesday.

At Reliance Digital, Koramangala, they received 2 to 3 more enquiries than normal.

Quick commerce sites Zepto, Instamart on Swiggy and Blinkit were running low on stocks.

"Over the last two days, sales of induction cooktops increased over 30 times, while rice cookers and electric pressure cookers saw a four-fold increase in sales," said a spokesperson of Amazon India.

Curbs may hit 1,500 industries, commercial units run on PNG

No disruption likely for domestic natural gas supply

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Nearly 1,500 industries and commercial establishments in Karnataka that depend on piped natural gas (PNG) are likely to be affected, as industry sources anticipate supply disruptions due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

Karnataka's first gas-based power plant situated in Yelahanka is also on the verge of temporary closure owing to shortage of gas availability.

According to available data, there are 932 commercial PNG connections and 493 industrial connections in the state.

Given that India largely imports natural gas for industrial and commercial use from countries such as the US and Qatar, these entities have already witnessed a 50-70% reduction in supply so far, sources said.

In an order issued on March 9, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas removed industries and commercial establishments using PNG from the priority allocation category.

Instead, gas marketing companies have been directed to prioritise supply to domestic households and the transport sector, among others.

In Karnataka, there are about 5.5 lakh domestic PNG connections and 580 CNG stations serving vehicles running on compressed natural gas (CNG).

"There is adequate supply of natural gas for domestic PNG connections. We do not foresee any disruption even if the conflict continues as the supply for households is largely sourced domestically," reliable sources told *DH*.

However, industry representatives believe that PNG supply to industrial and commercial consumers could drop to zero if the conflict continues beyond two months.

Glass and ceramics, textiles, manufacturing and engineering, and boilers are some of the sectors that depend on natural gas due to its efficiency and lower carbon emissions.

Arif H M, past president of Peenya Industries Association, said the use of CNG and LPG was common in many of the industries.

"The quantity of purchase is in tankers and not just single cylinders. Since every business activity is linked to each other, there will be a wider effect from increase in raw material cost to that of final product," he said, adding there was a chance of misuse as well.

21 flights cancelled at KIA

BENGALURU, DHNS: A total of 21 flights were cancelled at the Kempegowda International Airport on Wednesday due to the ongoing airspace restrictions.

The key impacted sectors are Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Dubai, and Doha.

Overall, 11 arrival flights and 10 departures were cancelled.

With the operations improving at the airport, the airport authorities withheld details about the currently operational flights to West Asia.

Hoteliers make a beeline for firewood from Shivajinagar and Lalbagh

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A shortage of commercial LPG cylinders in Bengaluru has triggered an unexpected spike in firewood sales on Armstrong road in Shivajinagar, with several eateries and street vendors turning to traditional fuel to keep their kitchens running.

Traders on Armstrong Road, a hub for firewood and timber in the locality, said demand has risen sharply over a couple of days as hotels and small food outlets struggle to get commercial LPG refills.

"Many customers have come to buy wood from the last two days and sales of firewood have gone up because they are not getting commercial LPG cylinders. Some are ordering through online" said Rafeeq, a shopkeeper.

A firewood shop at Shivajinagar. DH PHOTO

Another trader Mumtaz said some of the hotel owners have been making bulk purchases of firewood as a temporary alternative. "We have seen a sudden surge in orders. Some hotels are buying wood to manage until LPG supply improves," she said.

A trader in Lalbagh told *DH* that they have been getting many calls for 10 kg or 20 kg of firewood since the last two days. "We deal in bulk and aren't able to meet the smaller demands. But, we have tried to help some people by sourcing a small quantity to help meet immediate needs.

Mango growers explore US, UK as Gulf markets face uncertainty

SRINIDHI R
DHARWAD, DHNS

Alphonso-quality mangoes grown in the rich belts of Dharwad, Belagavi and parts of Haveri have enjoyed a strong market in the Middle East for more than a decade.

Growers have been exporting the fruit to countries like Abu Dhabi, Iran, UAE, Kuwait and Iraq. However, with the mango season set to begin in the next fortnight, growers are facing uncertainty..

"For the past 10 years, we have been exporting mangoes from our Kelgeri mango orchards to Dubai, Iran and Kuwait, and to some European countries," said Mallikarjun Hiremath, a grower from Yadwad. While quality checks are more rigorous in Europe, the process is comparatively easier in Gulf countries. This has enabled growers to export large quantities of mangoes to the region. Last season, over 300 metric tonnes was exported.

Although more than 30 varieties of mangoes are grown in the region, the Alphonso variety remains the most popular in global market.

"Every year, traders from Vasai and Surat visit in January and book the orchards. They get the fruits plucked, packed in boxes and export them to the Middle East through the Goa port. However, this time, after visiting the orchards, the traders have not returned to pay the advance or book the produce," said Sharanappa Malipatil, another grower.

Dr Rajendra Poddar, honorary president of the Mango Growers' Association, said the situation should be seen as an opportunity rather than a setback.

"The association has been exploring alternative international markets," he said.

This year, efforts are being made to export Alphonso mangoes to the US, UK and Singapore. Talks are also underway with traders in Delhi and Vasai in Mumbai who are willing to purchase the fruit and export it to US and UK, Poddar added.

He said demand in the domestic market has increased due to lower yield this season.

Commercial cylinder price climbs to Rs 6,000 on black market

PUSHKAR V
BENGALURU, DHNS

The dip in LPG supply has pushed many residents and small businesses to buy from the black market.

DH found out that domestic cylinders, which officially cost around Rs 900 to Rs 950, is now being sold for a whopping Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,000 in the informal market.

The shortage has also hit businesses hard. Commercial LPG cylinders that usually cost around Rs 1,700 to Rs 1,800 are now reportedly being sold for as high as Rs 6,000.

Many small eateries, roadside stalls and home-based food businesses that depend on LPG are struggling to cope with the sudden spike in prices.

"People are using influence to get a hold of a 14 kg domestic cylinder, which is unheard of. Some big restaurant chains have sourced cylinders at high prices like Rs 5,000-Rs 6,000," a dealer said.

Arun Kumar D T, president of the PG Owners Welfare Association, said, "We are cumulatively trying to book cylinders online. But for every 10 cylinders we book, we are receiving only two or three".

Long queues at gas agencies as doorstep deliveries stall

BENGALURU, DHNS: LPG agencies are reporting long lines for domestic cylinders as doorstep deliveries suffer due to gas supply disruptions caused by the ongoing war in West Asia.

Some restaurants and paying-guest (PG) facilities are turning to domestic LPG as the commercial variant becomes scarce and too expensive.

On Wednesday, Hindustan Petroleum's Jayamahal depot was a hive of activity as domestic consumers queued anxiously and delivery agents streamed in and out on their mopeds.

Among those in line was a Thimmaiah Road resident, who arrived with an empty LPG cylinder stacked in the front leg space of his scooter. He booked online but didn't receive a delivery, so he came to pick it up himself.

"My last refill was one-and-a-half months ago," he said.

Staff told customers that only those who received a prior booking confirmation and a four-digit authentication code would get deliveries, provided their last refill was at least 30 days earlier.

The condition applies to those with online bookings as well as walk-in customers, a staff member said.

"There's no problem with domestic LPG. It's only commercial LPG cylinders that we've run out of. The problem began three days ago," the staffer said.

Muniswamy, a delivery agent, said doorstep deliveries could take up to 10 days. "There's nothing we can do. Prior bookings are mandatory. Cylinders are becoming scarce even on the black market," he added.

Meanwhile, restaurants and PG facilities are now turning to domestic cylinders "as a last resort." A restaurant in Malleswaram bought two domestic cylinders from a private supplier on Wednesday.

"We don't have any other option. If we don't get domestic cylinders, we'll be forced to shut shop. I won't be able to pay my employees. The two cylinders will likely last me two or three days. I'll be getting another one of those soon. That should last me till this weekend. By then, I'm hopeful that the crisis will get resolved," the owner said.

Because Ramzan is the peak season for many eateries, restaurateurs in and around RT Nagar are in a "beg, borrow or steal" situation.

OFF-SHORE SUCCOUR

Sanghas prove safety net for Kannadigas stuck in Gulf

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Despite living in uncertain times and away from their homeland, Kannadigas in war-affected countries are supporting each other and helping stranded Indians return home safely.

Recently, the senior Indian basketball team was stranded in Qatar. Members of the Karnataka Sangha Qatar ensured that the players — including 3 from Karnataka — were provided with basic facilities and safe passage to Riyadh before boarding a flight to India. The team reached Bengaluru on Monday.

In another instance, a family of eight that had arrived in Qatar on a cruise on March 1 was stranded due to the conflict. The Sangha helped the family return to India via Dubai once flight services resumed.

"Though the local government assured us of safety, members of Karnataka Sangha Qatar provided us with homely food and care," said Arvind A, a member of the basketball team. He was part of the 18-member squad in Qatar for a World Cup qualifier. He said Sangha members, in coordination with the Indian embassy, arranged a bus to Dubai so the team could catch a flight home.

Subramanya Hebbagelu, former vice-president of the Sangha, said hundreds of Indians and Kannadigas were stranded in Gulf countries after the war broke out.

"We coordinated with Kannadigas across these countries to ensure everyone was safe," he said.

Sadhan Das, a member of the Kannada Sangha in Dubai, said almost all stranded Kannadigas had now returned home.

"Most of those stuck here were tourists transiting to US or Europe," he said, adding that Sangha members provided them free lodging and boarding. "With the help of local authorities, we ensured that no Kannadiga suffered," he added.

Members of the Sanghas also assisted families facing emergencies. "Some lost loved ones in India and struggled to travel home. We helped arrange travel," he said.

Free BMTC travel for SSLC examinees

BENGALURU, DHNS: Students appearing for the SSLC Exam-1 can travel for free on the BMTC's ordinary bus services from their place of residence to the exam centre by producing the exam hall/admission ticket.

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) said that it would also operate additional trips based on demand and provide request stops near exam centres for students taking the exam.

The examinations are scheduled to be held from March 18 to April 2.

KSRTC initiative for visually impaired passengers wins award

KSRTC Director (Personnel and Vigilance) Gayithri KM receives the award in New Delhi on Wednesday. KSRTC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has received the Governance Now 12th PSU National Award in the 'Excellence in Innovation' category for its Dhwani Spandana initiative.

The bus operator implemented the Dhwani Spandana — Onboard Bus Identification and Navigation System on 200 Mysuru city transport buses with support from the German company GIZ.

The project reduced the travel dependency of visually impaired passengers and improved their confidence, safety and freedom of mobility.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Indian Medical Association: Awareness rally to mark World Kidney Day; Chamarajpet; 8.30 am onwards.

University of Agricultural Sciences: International Women's Day programme; GKVK, Jakkur; 10 am.

Karnataka State Coir Development Corporation Limited: Exhibition of innovative coir products; Eden Park Restaurant; Shivajinagar; from 5 pm.

CULTURAL

St Claret College: Seminar on 'Kannada Drama, Literature and Theatre: A Contemporary Encounter'; Mother Teresa Conference Hall, Jalahalli; 10 am.

Sahitya Akademi: Sahitya Vedike to mark Sahitya Akademi's foundation day; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 5 pm.

Nadoja Dr Baraguru Pratishthana: Presentation of 'The Rajalakshmi Baraguru' Award; Nayana Auditorium; Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; 5.30 pm.

Ranga Shankara: Staging of the play 'Vishwamitra Menake Dance Madodhu Enake-Ask Mr. YNK', directed by Chitrashekhar SN, JP Nagar 2nd Phase; 7.30 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Sri Raghavendra Swamy Matha: 'Daasavani Gaayana' programme; Jayanagar 5th Block; 5.15 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mainly clear sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	32.0°C
Minimum	19.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	NIL
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	39%
Sunset (Mar 12)	6:30 pm
Sunrise (Mar 13)	6:30 am
Moonrise	12:19 am
Moonset	11:46 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

ಡಾ.ಮನಮೋಹನ್ ಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ

Dr. MANMOHAN SINGH BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY

Jnana Jyoti, Central College Campus, Dr Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-01
Mobil: +91 81054 73869. **E-Mail:** registerevlubcu@gmail.com / regev@bcu.ac.in

No. BCU/2025-26/IND0024 **Date :** 11.03.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

1	Supply of Gold Medals with Wooden box for the 5th Annual Convocation to Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University.	
2	EMD Amount	**Rs. 30,000**
3	Tender document available for download	**11.03.2026**
4	Last Date of receipt	**19.03.2026 at 11.30 AM**
5	Opening of Technical Bid Tender	**20.03.2026 at 12.00 PM**
6	Opening of Financial Bid	**23.03.2026 at 11.00 AM**
7	Place of Opening of Tender	Office of the Registrar (Evaluation) Jnana Jyoti, Central College Campus, Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University, Dr Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-01.

Note: Payment of Short-term Tender processing fee and EMD amount as per E-procurement Portal.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR (Evaluation)

DIPR/CP/6188/SA/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಆಕುಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ನಜರ್‌ಬಾದ್, ಮೈಸೂರು – 10.
(Ph. No: 0821-2979772 E-mail:-khsdrp.divmys@gmail.com)
ಸಂ.: ಆಕುಕ/ಇಂ.ವಿ./ಕಾ.ಅ/ಮೈ/ಸಇ–1/ಟೆಂಡರ್–33/2025–26
ದಿ: 06.03.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ಮೈಸೂರು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪ್ರಕೃತಿ ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸೆ ಮತ್ತು ಯೋಗ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಮತ್ತು ಮೈಸೂರು ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಆಯುರ್ವೇದ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ವಿವಿಧ ವಿಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲಾದ ಮೂರನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಮಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ 4 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 2.50 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.98.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳು: 1)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 12.03.2026 ರಂದು 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. **2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್): 13.03.2026 ರಂದು 16.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (Through KPPP) https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in ದಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. **ಸೂಚನೆ: 1)** ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ಮುಂದೂಡುವ/ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. **2)** ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು

DIPR/DDMYS/1812/KSMCA/1019/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
Office of the Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division, Jasidih Camp-Deoghar

E-Procurement Tender Notice

Tender Reference No. :- WRD/Irr. Div., Jasidih camp-Deoghar/ SBD-IFB-01/2025-26 Dt :11.03.2026

1.	Name of the work	Construction of CD at ch. 1715/1709, ch. 1754/1748, ch. 1784/1778, ch. 1843 & ch. 2064.00, DLR Bridge at ch. 1728, ch. 1747/1750 & ch. 2000.00 and SLR Bridge at ch. 1824.00 of Punasi Main Canal
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 06,70,24,396.07 (Rs. Six crore seventy lakh twenty four thousand three hundred ninty six and seven paisa) only/-
3.	Time of Completion	360 Days
4.	Last date & Time for receipt of bids	06.04.2026 Up to 5:00 P.M.
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	16.03.2026 01:00 P.M.
6.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer Irrigation Division, Jasidih Camp-Deoghar
7.	Contact no. of Procurement officer	097710-63448
8.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	06432-232477

Note :- Only E-Tender will be accepted
Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division, Jasidih Camp-Deoghar

PR 374711 Water Resource(25-26)§D

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
ATALJI JANASNEHI DIRECTORATE
SSLR BUILDING, K.R.CIRCLE, BENGALURU-560001

No: AJSD/Tender/E-2087263/2025-26 **Date: 11/03/2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from reputed firms for procurement of **690 DUPLEX ADF DOCUMENT SCANNERS** to Atalji Janasnehi Kendras, Revenue Department, Bangalore. The e-Tender No: **AJSD/2025-26/IND0005** Tender documents and related information can be obtained from e-Procurement portal - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **12-03-2026.**

Sd/- Additional Director,
Atalji Janasnehi Directorate, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/SMCL /6197/25-26

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN - U40101KA2002SGC030438

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM, Bengaluru invites tenders for the following Civil Engineering works coming under Bengaluru Metropolitan Area Zone through e-procurement portal in two cover system.

Enquiry No. BESCOM/2025-26/BD/WORKS_INDENT 1041 for Construction of meeting hall head room, parapet wall, providing lift and other allied works to S-14 Sub division office, Jayanagar Division, BESCOM, Bangalore. **Estimated amount :** Rs.130.00 lakhs. **Estimated Amount put to tender :** Rs. 110.16 Lakhs. **Earnest Money Deposit :** Rs. 1.66 lakhs.

Time Schedule: (a) Pre bid Meeting date and time : **23.03.2026 @ 15.00 Hrs. (b)** Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications : **25.03.2026 up to 17.30 Hrs. (c)** Last Date & Time for Receipts of Tenders : **27.03.2026 up to 11.00 Hrs. (d)** Date & time of Opening Technical bid : **30.03.2026 at 11.30 Hrs. (e)** Date & time of Opening Price bid : Will be intimated after technical evaluation to the responsive bidder.

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement by visiting web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Karnataka public Procurement portal. on or after **12.03.2026.** For any clarification contact e-procurement helps desk +91-80-46010000, +91-8068948777 or e-mail to **support@ihelpdsk.com.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Ele),
Bangalore Metropolitan Area South Zone,BESCOM

For electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल,चाईबासा

अल्पकालीन ई०–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–
WRD/MID/CHAIBASA/ F2-16/2025-26(DMFT)

1.कार्य का नाम :–

यूप संख्या	योजना का नाम	जिला	प्रखण्ड	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख में)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रूपये में)	अग्रधन की राशि (रूपये में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	दिकुबालकाण्ड पंचायत के ग्राम–दुधपानी मझगांव मुख्य पथ (क्रेशर) से बालकासाई तक पी०सी०सी० पथ निर्माण।	पश्चिमी सिंहभूम।	हाटगम्हरिया	154.698	10,000.00	309500.00	6 माह
2.	आंगरपदा पंचायत के ग्राम–महालिपोखर में मुख्य सड़क से लेकर मार्चा उड़ीसा सीमा तक पी०सी०सी० पथ निर्माण।	पश्चिमी सिंहभूम।	मझगांव	152.962	10,000.00	306000.00	6 माह
3.	सेरेंगसिया पंचायत के ग्राम सेरेंगसिया में सेरेंगसिया नाला पर चेकडैम निर्माण।	पश्चिमी सिंहभूम।	टोन्टो	99.557	10,000.00	199500.00	11 माह
4.	दिरीबुरू पंचायत के ग्राम लिपुंगा के ईचागुपी टोला से बिड़ीकुदा तक पी०सी०सी० पथ निर्माण।	पश्चिमी सिंहभूम।	नोवामुण्डी	72.895	10,000.00	146000.00	5 माह
5.	तोन्डांगहातु पंचायत के ग्राम तोन्डांगहातु मालुका आर०ई०ओ० रोड नवांगांव बुरूसाई चौक से कादोगुटू भाया डिग्री कॉलेज जगन्नाथपुर तक पी०सी०सी० पथ निर्माण।	पश्चिमी सिंहभूम।	जगन्नाथपुर	71.721	10,000.00	143500.00	5 माह
6.	जामिद पंचायत के मेरमेरा नायक टोला हनुमान मूर्ति के सामने बड़ा नाला में चेकडैम निर्माण।	पश्चिमी सिंहभूम।	चक्रधरपुर	91.015	10,000.00	182500.00	11 माह
7.	कुलीतोडांग पंचायत के कुलीतोडांग सोकवा बांध में चेकडैम निर्माण।	पश्चिमी सिंहभूम।	चक्रधरपुर	74.561	10,000.00	149500.00	11 माह

नोट :– केवल ई०–निविदा(Online Mode) ही स्वीकार होगा।
2. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट WWW.jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर देखें।
3. वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय :– 04.04.2026 के 11:00 बजे पूर्वाहन् से।
4. ई०–निविदा में भाग लेने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– 10.04.2026 अपराह्न 03:00 बजे तक।
5. ई०–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :– 11.04.2026 को 05:00 बजे अपराह्न ।
6. परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य एवं अग्रधन की राशि सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी एवं ई–गवर्नेस विभाग झारखण्ड मंत्रालय, धुर्वा, राँची के आदेश सह ज्ञापांक 120, दिनांक 03.10.2023 के अनुरूप (Online) प्राप्त की जायेगी।
7. निविदा आमंत्रित करनेवाले पदाधिकारी का नाम, पता , दूरभाष सं0 एवं ई0मेल आई डी0– कार्यपालक अभियंता , लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, चाईबासा / 9572468424 ई० मेल – eemidchaibasa@gmail.com, eemidchai-cemr-jhr@nic.in
8. निविदा के B.O.Q की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तदानुसार B.O.Q के मूल्य एवं अग्रधन की राशि में बदलाव होगा ।
9. प्राक्कलित राशि का 10 प्रतिशत से नीचे के दर से निविदित (Quoted rate is more than 10% below the schedule rate) के परिपेक्ष में पथ निर्माण विभाग झारखण्ड रॉची के पत्रांक 2146(S) दिनांक 09.09.2020 के शर्तावली के अनुसार अतिरिक्त जमानत की राशि एकरारनामा करने के समय जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा ।
10. निविदा निश्पादन Duuble Bid Envelope पद्धति से किया जाएगा Technical Bid में सफल निविदादाता का ही Financial Bid खोला जाएगा। उपायुक्त, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम का पत्रांक 1679, दिनांक 23.12.2022 के आलोक में निविदा डालने के समय चाईबासा जिलान्तर्गत किसी भी प्रमण्डल / विभाग द्वारा आवंटित कार्य एकरारित अवधि बीत जाने के बाद लंबित नही होने संबंधी शपथ–पत्र Affidavit देना होगा। निविदा के एक NIT में एक निबंधन पर दो से अधिक कार्य आवंटित नहीं किया जाएगा। वैसे संवेदक जो एकरारनामा में अंकित कार्य पूर्ण करने की तिथि तक योजनाओं का कार्य अधूरा रखे हुए हैं। उन्हें जिला अन्तर्गत चलने वाली किसी भी योजना में तब तक कार्य आबंटित नहीं किया जाएगा जब तक अपने पूर्व के कार्य को समाप्त न कर दें। जिला अन्तर्गत किसी भी विभाग का कार्य लम्बित होने की सूचना यदि इस कार्यालय को प्राप्त होती है तो संबंधित संवेदक को कार्य आवंटित नहीं किया जाएगा।
11. निविदा खोलने के की तिथि से 5 दिनों के अन्दर निविदादाता द्वारा अपनी आपत्ति / दावा दर्ज कराये अन्यथा अवधि बीतने के पश्चात् कोई भी आपत्ति / दावा मान्य नहीं होगा।
12. बिना कारण बताये किसी भी समय निविदा को रद्द करने का अधिकारी अधोहस्ताक्षरी को सुरक्षित रहेगा।
13- Technical Bid में Qualify करने वाले संवेदकों / फर्म का ही Financial Bid खोला जाएगा।
14. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई०–भुगतान सम्वेदक द्वारा जिस बैंक खाता से किया जाएगा। उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर बैंक खाता को बन्द कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही सम्वेदक की होगी।

ह० / –
कार्यपालक अभियंता
लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, चाईबासा

PR 374725 West Singhbhum(25-26).D

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender Notice No.: e-Tender/GSU/KGP/1/2026, dated 10.03.2026. e-Tender is invited by Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti, S.E.Railway, Kharagpur-721301 for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work before 15.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. **Tender No. : E/KGP/GS/01/2026. Description of Work:** Appointment of Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for providing PROJECT SUPERVISION SERVICES for the Project of Gati Shakti Unit, under Chief Project Manager/GSU/Kharagpur, Kharagpur Division. **Tender Value :** ₹ 8,61,38,254.10. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 17,22,800/-. **Tender Document Cost :** 0.00. **Completion period of the work :** 24 months. **Date of opening :** 17.04.2026. **Bidding start date :** From 03.04.2026 and upto 15.00 hrs. on 17.04.2026. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/descriptions/specifications of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for this work will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all tenders. **(PR-1285)**

E-Tender Notice No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-16-19-26, dated 10.03.2026. e-Tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)/Adra, S.E.Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works : **Sl. No. & Tender No.; Description of works; Tender value : (1) E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-16-26, dated 10.03.2026;** Supply and loading into wagons/hoppers 344594 cum 50 mm gauge machine crushed hard stone track ballast at Pakur/Bakudih/Rajgram/Pinargaria/Barharwa/Taljhari quarry for Adra Division (Measurement of ballast will be done at destination); ₹ 68,39,81,184.66. **(2) E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-17-26, dated 10.03.2026;** Adra Division – Barricading/fencing of road is required to protect running Railway track to prevent such incidents of vulnerable location and road repair under the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (North)/Adra; ₹ 2,33,67,646.31. **(3) E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-18-26, dated 10.03.2026;** Standardization of level crossing by shifting gate barrier, Improvement of visibility, road surface and gate lodge standardization at 16 Nos. Level Crossings gate between Purulia-Kotshila-Rajabera, Anara-Rukni, Mahuda-Chandrapura & TT Line section in Adra Division; ₹ 1,50,17,397.73. **(4) E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-19-26, dated 10.03.2026;** Repair, operation and maintenance of filter Plant at Garga Pump house at Bokaro Steel City for three years; ₹ 83,80,853.33. The **closing date and time of e-tenders** is on 13.04.2026 at 15.00 hrs. for each. Details of above e-tenders may please be seen at website **www.ireps.gov.in** **(PR-1291)**

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change

Advertisement

Sub: - Appointment for the post of Chairman, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi.

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of Chairman, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi.

2. The Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi was established under provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi exercises functions related to prevention and control of pollution.

3. The following are the terms and conditions for the post of Chairman, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi:-

1	Scale of Pay	According to the Seventh Pay Commission Pay Scale Level-15 in the pay matrix. Other allowances (dearness allowance, medical allowance, travel allowance) and annual increment will be payable in accordance with relevant rules of Government of India / State Government.
2	Method of Recruitment:	Deputation/on contract/direct recruitment.
3	Terms & Conditions	(A) Allowance of the Chairman of the Board, time of joining, salary, provident fund/National Pension Scheme/Employee Provident Fund, gratuity, retirement age, medical facility and other services shall be regulated with the applicable rules and orders as holding the post of equal pay scale of the officer of State Government/ Central Government. (B) In case of deputation from State/Central Government appointment to the post of Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board Chairman will be called Foreign Services and the provisions of State Government/ Central Government for foreign service will be applicable.
4	Qualification & Experience	Persons from Central Government/State Governments/Public Sector Undertakings/Universities/Recognized Research Institutes /Autonomous or Semi-Governmental or Statutory or Private Institutions or Retired person having qualification mentioned below can apply. (i) Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/Technology discipline relating to Environment or Master's Degree in Science preferably relating to Environment from a recognized University or Institute. Having special knowledge and practical experience relating to the environmental protection, including industrial pollution mitigation, water treatment or air pollution control devices. (ii) **A minimum of 10 years of practical experience in the field of environmental protection and pollution control, along with 10 years of administrative or managerial experience in the Central Government/ State Government/ Public Sector Undertakings/ Universities/ recognized research institutions/ autonomous, semi-government, statutory or private institutions. Additionally, at least five years of regular service in a post corresponding to Level-13 of the Seventh Pay** Officers of the All India Services belonging to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) or the Indian Forest Service (IFS), who are holding or have held the post of Secretary or an equivalent position in the State Government, and possess administrative experience in similar areas.
5	Age limit	Maximum age limit will be 62 years on the last date of receipt of application.
6	Tenure	Single term of 3 years.

Note: Officers working in the Central or State Government or Public Sector Undertaking shall send their application :-
(1) Through proper channel.
(2) Three sets of application should be received in the office of the undersigned.
(3) An advance copy of the application may be forwarded to the undersigned, but it will not be considered unless the application is received through proper channel along with following documents before the last date of submission mentioned below.
(i) Annual Confidential Report dossier for last five years.
(ii) Integrity Certificate / Vigilance Clearance in the enclosed format to be signed by an officer not below the rank/scale of Deputy Secretary in Government or controlling office of the officer concerned.

Eligible candidates are requested to submit their duly filled application in the prescribed format (hard copy) in 3 sets on or before 10-04-2026 till 5 p.m. in the Address given below, by hand/ registered/ speed post. Application received after the prescribed time and date will not be accepted.

Note- Application performa can be seen at departmental notice board and downloaded from **www.prdjharkhand.in and http://forest.jharkhand.gov.in.**

To,
JOINT SECRETARY,
FOREST, ENVIRONMENT& CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND,
NEPAL HOUSE, DORANDA, RANCHI.
PIN CODE-834002 (JHARKHAND)

Sd/-
(Sunita Kumari Chourasia)
Joint Secretary,
Forest, Environment& Climate Change Department,
Government of Jharkhand.

PR 374790 (Forest, Environment and Climate Changes) 25-26 (D)

Government of Jharkhand
Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change

Advertisement

Sub:- Appointment for the post of Member Secretary, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi.

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of Member secretary, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi.

2. The Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi was established under provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi exercises functions related to prevention and control of pollution. The Member secretary shall be a full-time incumbent.

3. The following are the terms and conditions for the post of Member secretary, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB), Ranchi:-

1	Scale of Pay	According to the Seventh Pay Commission Pay Scale Level-13A in the pay matrix. Other allowances (dearness allowance, medical allowance, travel allowance) and annual increment will be payable in accordance with relevant rules of Government of India/State Government.
2	Method of Recruitment	Deputation/on contract/direct recruitment.
3	Terms & Conditions	(A) Allowance of the Member Secretary of the Board, time of joining, salary, provident fund/ National Pension Scheme/Employee Provident Fund, gratuity, retirement age, medical facility and other services shall be regulated with the applicable rules and orders as the holding the post of equal pay scale of the officer of State Government/Central Government. (B) In the case of deputation from Central/ State Government appointment to the post of Member Secretary, Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board will be called External Services and the provisions of State Government/Central Government for external service will be applicable.
4	Education Qualification & Experience	Persons from Central Government/State Governments/Public Sector Undertakings/Universities/Recognized Research Institutes/Autonomous or Semi-Governmental or Statutory or Private Institutions having the qualification mentioned below can apply. (i) Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/Technology discipline relating to Environment or Master's Degree in Science preferably relating to Environment from a recognized University or Institute. Competent, qualified, desirable knowledge in the field of environmental protection and pollution control management and having practical experience. (ii) A minimum of 10 years of practical experience in the field of environmental protection and pollution control, along with administrative or managerial experience in the Central Government/ State Government/ Public Sector Undertakings/ Universities/ recognized research institutions/ autonomous, semi-government, statutory or private institutions. In addition, at least five years of regular service in a post corresponding to Level-12 of the Seventh Pay Commission or in a post with the pay scale of ₹15,600–39,100 with Grade Pay ₹7,600 under the Sixth Pay Commission, or an equivalent position. Or Officers of the All India Services belonging to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) or the Indian Forest Service (IFS), who are holding or have held the post of Special Secretary or an equivalent position in the State Government, and possesses knowledge and experience in environmental protection and pollution control management in the institutions or Departments of the Central Government/ State Government/ Public Sector Undertakings.
5	Age limit	Maximum age limit will be 60 years on the last date of receipt of application.
6	Tenure	Single term of 3 years

Note: Officers working in the Central or State Government or Public Sector Undertaking or University or Recognized Research Institution or Autonomous or Semi Government or Statutory Organizations shall send their application :-
(1) Through proper channel.
(2) Three sets of application should be received in the office of the undersigned.
(3) An advance copy of the application may be forwarded to the undersigned, but it will not be considered unless the application is received through proper channel along with following documents before the last date of submission mentioned below.
(i) Annual Confidential Report dossier for last five years.
(ii) Integrity Certificate / Vigilance Clearance in the enclosed format to be signed by an officer not below the rank/scale of Deputy Secretary in Government or controlling office of the officer concerned.

Eligible candidates are requested to submit their duly filled application in the prescribed format (hard copy) in 3 sets on or before 10-04-2026 till 5 p.m. in the Address given below, by hand/ registered/ speed post. Application received after the prescribed time and date will not be accepted.

Note- Application performa can be seen at departmental notice board and downloaded from **www.prdjharkhand.in and http://forest.jharkhand.gov.in.**

To,
SPECIAL SECRETARY,
FOREST, ENVIRONMENT& CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND,
NEPAL HOUSE, DORANDA, RANCHI.
PIN CODE-834002 (JHARKHAND)

Sd/-
(Sunita Kumari Chourasia) Joint Secretary,
Forest, Environment& Climate Change Department,
Government of Jharkhand.

PR 374797 Forest, Environment and Climate Changes (25-26)_D

RTPS faces Rs 76 cr penalty for polluting air, water

CPCB flags lapses in monitoring emission levels at oldest plant in state

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The state-owned Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS) has come under the scanner for allegedly violating rules by emitting pollutants three times higher than the prescribed limit, posing a serious threat to public health.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued a show-cause notice asking why a penalty of up to Rs 76.62 crore should not be levied on the plant.

The notice was issued to the thermal plant, the oldest in the state, in February after an inspection conducted by a CPCB team in August 2025 to verify environmental compliance and the status of Online Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS). Back in July 2015, the Board had issued notice to RTPS to install the systems.

While all eight units were operational, monitoring was not done as per the rules. "OCEMS for emission parameters in Unit-3 was found non-operational since August 2022, and in the case of Unit-2, the sensors were not properly aligned," the notice said.

At the effluent treatment plant (ETP), the pollution measuring devices were dipped in a bucket of water rather than the actual polluted effluent.

"The OCEMS sensors installed in the ETP settling tank outlet were immersed in a bucket (since March 2025), and the data display was turned off, indicating that the quality of the treated effluent discharged from the ETP settling tank outlet is not being monitored," it said.

Moreover, the prescribed emission for particulate matter (PM) showed that RTPS was emitting twice to three times above the prescribed maximum limit of 100 milligrams/cubic metre. Manual monitoring showed that the OCEMS was downplaying the high concentration of emissions. The Board noted that the numbers indicate "gross deviation".

Safety threatened, river polluted

Moreover, a high threat to safety prevented the monitoring of the emissions of one unit. "PM emission monitoring could not be done in Unit-3 due to the stack being severely damaged, posing a high risk to the surrounding area, resulting in its being barricaded by the plant," the notice said.

The rules bar the discharge of treated/untreated effluent outside the premises. However, it was observed that the excess treated effluent discharged into the ash ponds overflowed and reached the Krishna River after travelling 2km. The ETP settling tank was also filled with ash, it noted.

To questions, RTPS executive director H R Ramesh said they have filed a compliance report. "It is true there were some issues in complying with the norms issued in 2020. We have taken all the corrective measures and requested that they not levy a penalty. The OCEMS sensors were immersed in water because the ETP settling tank was filled with ash and there was a need for maintenance," he said.

Asked whether the compliance report involves understanding the impact of the air pollution caused by RTPS on public health, Ramesh said the rules stipulate only compliance with emission norms.

Non-compliance with revised norms

The Central Pollution Control Board noted that, as per the notifications issued by the Union Environment Ministry in 2022 and 2025, RTPS was liable to pay environmental compensation for non-compliance with the revised PM emission standards.

"(T)he interim compensation EC for the non-compliant period during 6.8.2025 to 31.12.2025 has been assessed (based on electricity generation) at Rs 76.62 crore," it said, noting that the figure may vary based on the actual period of violation.

IASbaba students shine

The institute distinguished itself with over 200 selections nationwide, including the all-India first rank and four among the top 10 at UPSC CSE 2025

Mohan Kumar S, Founder, IASbaba (left), felicitates Kiran Kamate, Karnataka topper with rank 53, in the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2025. He was a student of IASbaba's Prelims Test Series.

The UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2025 results have been declared and IASbaba has demonstrated outstanding performance once again, securing top ranks both nationally and in Karnataka. Anuj Agnihotri, a student of IASbaba's Prelims Test Series, has secured All India Rank (AIR) 1. Rajeshwari Suve M, who secured AIR 2, was also a Prelims Test Series student. Kiran Kamate, trained for prelims, mains and the personality test, secured AIR 53, becoming the topper from Karnataka.

Adding to this remarkable achievement, Zinnia Arora (AIR 6), Monika Srivastava (AIR 16) and Diksha Rai (AIR 40) secured top positions, enabling IASbaba to bag four ranks in the top 20. This accomplishment highlights the institute's consistent excellence in mentoring. Overall, IASbaba's students secured over 20 ranks in the top 200 and more than 200 selections nationwide, further strengthening its reputation as one of the country's most trusted institutions for civil services preparation.

In Karnataka, IASbaba delivered a particularly strong performance. Out of the 31 successful candidates from the state, 24 were associated with IASbaba, contributing significantly to Karnataka's representation in the Civil Services Examination. This achievement is especially significant as it coincides with a milestone in IASbaba's journey of mentoring and shaping students for a career in civil service.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohan Kumar S, Founder, IASbaba, congratulated the successful candidates and credited their results to the dedication of the faculty, the collaborative efforts of the team and the determination of the students.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Govt reviewing...

Data centres, from Page 1

"I wrote to the telecom ministry and sought a subsea landing at Mangaluru. They said they'd assist if private companies do it," he said.

Earlier, Dheeraj pointed out that Bengaluru faced a shortage of data centres. "The government hasn't set up dedicated data centre parks because of which large enterprises are leaving Bengaluru," he said. Bengaluru is ranked fifth after Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Delhi when it comes to data centres, he said.

"Amazon, Microsoft, Google, Meta, Alibaba, Tencent, Oracle, Apple, NTT have offices in Bengaluru. Their data centres should be retained," Dheeraj said, adding that the government should provide data centre facilities at KWIN City.

Excavation at Lakkundi temple ends; over 50 relics unearthed

GADAG, DHNS: The curtains came down on excavations around the Kote Veerabhadreshwara temple in Lakkundi on Wednesday. More than 50 historical relics and remnants of old structures were unearthed during the 47-day-long exercise.

The excavation was jointly undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, and the Lakkundi Heritage Area Development Authority. As of now, the 14-foot-deep excavation pit has been covered with a plastic sheet, but work has already begun on filling the pit with the same mud that was removed in layers during the excavation.

Around 35 labourers were pressed into the excavation exercise in the 10mX10m pit, which was divided into four boxes, said Lakkundi Heritage Area Development Authority Commissioner Sharanu Gogeri. "We decided to halt the excavation at the site only after historians carried out a thorough inspection of the spot," he said.

Siddu Patil, the state's representative on the Lakkundi Heritage Area Development Authority, pointed out that the Veerabhadreshwara temple fair was scheduled on March 30. "The excavation site is being systematically covered. We are contemplating carrying out excavations at other spots in the village with the ASI's permission," he said.

Glut in market...

Fruit prices, from Page 1

Traders at the APMC market attribute the price dip to a combination of high local yields and a stagnation in exports. "The supply is significantly higher this year as more farmers opted for fruit crops," said a local trader.

The ongoing war and rising geopolitical tensions have disrupted exports, added the trader. When the fruit meant for international markets does not move, it gets diverted to local markets like KR Market and Binnypete Market, causing a glut in the local markets, he said.

APMC Secretary Suma said, "We are not seeing direct exports of bananas or melons from this specific market to other countries. While some farmers might export directly from their fields, our current local supply is massive. We continue to see steady imports of apples and kiwis."

Set up mercy killing wards in hospitals: Karibasamma

NRUPATHUNGA S K
DAVANGERE, DHNS

H B Karibasamma wants the government to implement the SC order soon.

Following the Supreme Court's approval of passive euthanasia for a 32-year-old in a permanent vegetative state, 86-year-old retired teacher H B Karibasamma, who has been fighting for the same for the past 25 years, has urged the state government to frame guidelines for mercy killing and set up a separate ward in the government hospitals for those who want to die with dignity.

She has been suffering from colon cancer for several years.

Karibasamma told *DH*, "Though the state government promised to implement the directions of the Supreme Court with regard to euthanasia last year, it has not yet framed guidelines. So, many people like me, who have been suffering from incurable diseases, are unable to die with dignity."

"I urge the government to implement them before April 22. If not, I will launch a hunger strike at Jayadeva Circle in the city from April 23," she said.

Gujarat-bound...

Ship, from Page 1

"Precious lives, including those of Indian citizens, have already been lost in multiple such attacks in the earlier phase of this conflict, and the intensity and lethality of the attacks only seem to be increasing," the Ministry of External Affairs stated. Two other ships were also purportedly attacked.

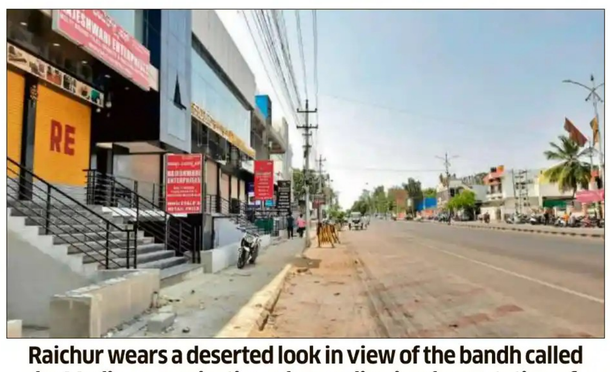
New Delhi stressed that targeting commercial shipping and endangering innocent civilian crew members, or otherwise impeding freedom of navigation and commerce, should be avoided.

"The welfare of a diaspora is of utmost priority and importance to us," said Jaiswal. "A few Indians, who have suffered injuries in the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) region, are being looked after. They are being treated, and our embassy and consulate are in close touch with them," the MEA said.

Internal quota in jobs: Raichur bandh call evokes good response

RAICHUR, DHNS: The dawn-to-dusk Raichur bandh called by the internal reservation struggle committee, demanding the implementation of internal quota in a major recruitment drive for 56,432 vacant posts, received a good response on Wednesday.

The members of Madiga community took out a massive protest march in the city and converged at Ambedkar Circle. The protesters burnt the effigy of Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa. The police, however, prevented the agitators from burning the effigy of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.



Raichur wears a deserted look in view of the bandh called by Madiga organisations demanding implementation of enhanced internal reservation in recruitment drive to fill 56,000-plus posts, on Wednesday.

The shops and commercial establishments, banks and petrol pumps were closed in view of the bandh. The schools and colleges remained closed. The RTC buses, including the city buses too, remained off roads. The police had beefed up security in the city and ensured no untoward incident took place.

The Madigas have sternly opposed the state government's decision to proceed with recruitment of 56,000-plus posts under the existing 50% reservation cap. They want the government to implement the enhanced internal reservation of 17% (SC Left 6%, Right 6% and others 5%) for the proposed recruitment drive.

The agitators under the leadership of Virupakshi and Narasappa Dandore, submitted a memorandum to DC Nitish and SP Arunangshu Giri.

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, AYESHA MOHAMMADI, residing No. 2/1, Green Enclave, 2nd Block, 5th Main, 4th B Cross, Flat No. 301, HRBR Layout, Kamanahalli, Bangalore - 560043, have changed our minor Son's name from SYED OMAR to SYED MOHAMMED OMAR vide affidavit dated 06-02-2026 before notary Mir Zia Ulla, Bengaluru

I, PAUL_PAJU MUPPALA S/o.Thimothi, R/a#137 1st`Main, 2nd`Cross Old Madras Road Benniganahalli Bangalore 560016 have changed my Name to MUPPERLA PAUL_RAJU vide`affidavit Dated:9.3.2026 Before`Notary C.Sharada, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, AYESHA MOHAMMADI, residing No. 2/1, Green Enclave, 2nd Block, 5th Main, 4th B Cross, Flat No. 301, HRBR Layout, Kamanahalli, Bangalore - 560043, have changed our minor daughter's name from SYEDA ANAM FATHIMA to SYEDA FATHIMA MOHAMMADI vide affidavit dated 06-02-2026 before notary Mir Zia Ulla, Bengaluru

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Chapter 5
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No:BMICAPA/CLU-01/27/2024-25/2817 Date: 11.03.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

Sri Sripal kumar, Sri Vimal kumar, Sri Subhash chand, Sri.Bharath kumar Jain S/o Late H.Mohanlal, Sri. Sripal kumar Mohanlal s/o Hirachand Mohanlal and Sri. S. Preetham Singh s/o S. Kapoor Singh ghumman and Sri. Sripal kumar Mohanlal, Sri. Vimalkumar Mohanlal, Sri. Vimal kumar Mohanlal, Sri. Subhash Mohanlal, Sri. Bharath kumar Jain Mohanlal have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from "Agriculture" Zone to "Residential" purpose pertaining to Sy.No:24/1 extent of 01Acre-10Guntas, Sy.No:24/2 extent of 0Acre-31Guntas (out of 2Acre 'A' Kharab converted land, 0Acre-31Guntas 'A' Kharab land is in the name of applicant), Sy.No:24/4 extent of 0Acre-13Guntas of Madavara Village and Sy.No:32/2 extent of 01Acre-28Guntas, Sy.No:32/3 extent of 03Acre-24Guntas, Sy.No:33/1 extent of 2Acre-04Guntas, Sy.No:33/2 extent of 0Acre-32Guntas, Sy.No:33/3 extent of 02Acre-26Guntas, Sy.No:33/4 extent of 0Acre-02.08Guntas, Sy.No:33/5 extent of 0Acre-02.08Guntas, Sy.No:33/6 extent of 0Acre-02.08Guntas, Sy.No:33/7 extent of 0Acre-02.08Guntas of **Madanayakanahalli Village**, Dasanpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for **Agriculture zone** in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) By developing the layout in the above said land, the poor and middle Class people will get the sites at reasonable price.
2) During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for Local labourers.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Layout in the above said lands.
4) By planned layout, the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, UGD, electrical facilities and parks etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
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(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works coming under Chamarajanagara Operations Division- on TTK basis-Percentage rate tendering.

Sl. No.	Name of the Tender
1	Bid Enquiry No. CEE/KPTCL/TZM/SEE(O)/ AEE-3/2025-26/881 dtd: 11.03.2026 Combined package for : a) Providing 66kV class, 20MVAr Capacitor Banks at 66/11kV sub-stations, Begur. b) Providing 66kV class, 20MVAr Capacitor Banks at 66/11kV sub-stations, Bommalapura. c) Providing 66kV class, 20MVAr Capacitor Banks at 66/11kV sub-stations, Kothanuru.
2	Bid Enquiry No. CEE/KPTCL/TZM/SEE(O)/ AEE-3/2025-26/882 dtd: 11.03.2026 Combined package for : a) Providing additional 11kV class, 1x2.9MVAr Capacitor Bank to 20MVA Power Transformer at 66/11kV sub-stations, Harave. b) Providing additional 11kV class, 2x2.9MVAr Capacitor Banks to 20MVA at Power Transformer 1 & 2 66/11kV sub-stations, Attigulipura. c) Providing additional 11kV class, 2x2.9MVAr Capacitor Banks 20MVA at Power Transformer 1 & 2 at 66/11kV sub-stations, Ramapura. d) Providing additional 11kV class, 1x2.9MVAr Capacitor Bank to 20MVA Power Transformer at 66/11kV sub-stations, Sategala.

The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: http://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. on or after 16.03.2026. Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele.),
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Ground Floor, FTS Compound, N.R.Mohalla, Mysuru.

Drop ministers skipping session, CM urged at CLP meeting

BENGALURU, DHNS: The ruling party legislators on Wednesday expressed displeasure with the functioning of some ministers at the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and asked him to drop those ministers from his Cabinet if they continue to skip the ongoing legislative session.

The meeting saw legislators criticise ministers who ignore the party's instructions and remain absent from the House, sources said. It is the second time that the legislators are calling out "unresponsive" ministers in the CLP meeting.

Earlier, some senior legislators had voiced similar concerns and also complained to the fact-finding committee constituted to review the party's performance in the Lok Sabha elections. The seniors had sought an evaluation of the district in-charge ministers' performance.

Stating that the CM had himself asked all ministers to remain present in the House, except under unavoidable circumstances, legislators asked what the point of having ministers who don't even attend the legislature was.

Citing delay in development works in their constituencies, the MLAs and MLCs sought development funds as promised in the earlier CLP meeting, besides budgetary allocation.

Siddaramaiah urged the members to corner the Opposition BJP in the Assembly over the "injustice" by the Centre to Karnataka in GST allocations, rising prices of cooking gas and shortages.

Also, Bangarpet MLA Narayanaswamy walked out of the meeting after an argument with Sringeri MLA T D Rajegowda. While Narayanaswamy complained that the IAS and IPS officers did not heed to the elected representatives, Rajegowda defended the bureaucrats, leading to a verbal spat and former storming out.

The Bengaluru MLAs demanded transfer of police inspectors ahead of GBA polls, stating that there had been no transfers for the last two and a half years.

LPG cylinder crisis triggers chaos in Assembly

Centre lied to Parliament: Kharge

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Legislative Assembly saw bedlam on Wednesday over the LPG crisis, with the governing Congress attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "weak foreign policy," irking the Opposition BJP.

The issue was raised in Zero Hour by Kunigal Congress MLA Dr H D Ranganath.

"The union government added insult to injury by hiking LPG prices. Also, a domestic cylinder priced Rs 900 is selling for Rs 1,800. A commercial cylinder of Rs 2,000 is going for Rs 4,000. This is because of Modi's weak foreign policy," Ranganath said, triggering an uproar by the Opposition.

Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge accused the Union government of lying to the Parliament.

"On February 9, the Parliament was told that there was no cause for panic thanks to reserves that would last 75 days. On March 6, the petroleum minister said there was no shortage. On March 7, cylinder prices were hiked. On March 10, provisions of the Essential Commodities Act were invoked," he said.

"Where is Modi today? He can wish Rashmika Mandanna (on her wedding), but won't speak about this crisis," Priyank charged.

"Netanyahu (Israeli PM) is Modi's best friend. They walked on the beach. What happened?" he asked.

BJP's V Sunil Kumar said the LPG crisis was due to the war. "If you want to do politics on this, I can also say that this (Congress) government is unable to resolve server issues, ensure people get sand supply in coastal areas and make medicines available in hospitals even as there's no crisis," he said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had a tiff with Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka.

"There's no problem in any other state. But here, we have a CM who asked hoteliers to go on a strike," he said, which Siddaramaiah flatly refused. "All I said to the press was that hoteliers' stand to protest is right. I didn't incite them," Siddaramaiah said.

I'm anti-BJP cell chief: Priyank

IT and BT Minister Priyank Kharge identified himself as the chief of the "anti-BJP, anti-RSS and anti-Modi" cell. During bedlam in the Legislative Assembly over the LPG crisis, senior BJP lawmaker S Suresh Kumar said Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa should speak and not Priyank. "Or else, create an anti-BJP cell and make Priyank the chief," he said. To this, Priyank said: "I'm already chief of the anti-BJP, anti-RSS and anti-Modi cell. What will you do about it?"

Normal delivery cycle maintained...

LPG bookings, From Page 1

The official further said the petroleum ministry has sought actions to prevent hoarding and black-marketing of fuel.

On India's crude supply, she said the country currently has access to about 55 lakh barrels of crude oil per day. This volume exceeded what would normally have arrived through the Strait of Hormuz during this period, she said.

India imports crude from nearly 40 countries.

Oil marketing companies have secured various crude cargoes from different sources, and as a result of this diversification, about 70% of India's crude imports are now coming from routes outside the Strait of Hormuz, compared to about 55% earlier, she added.

"As I speak to you today, two LNG cargoes are headed for India, and they will arrive within a few days, which will further strengthen the crude supply position in the country," Sharma said.

With authorities prioritising gas supplies for households, commercial LPG consumers, especially eateries in cities, are facing a shortage.

Manpreet Singh, Honorary Treasurer of the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI), said many establishments in Delhi are not receiving regular LPG supplies, with several of them shifting to alternatives like piped natural gas or induction cooking.

'Surge in sale of induction cooktops'

Street vendors, who rely heavily on LPG cylinders, may face greater difficulties if the disruptions continue, said Sandeep, representing the Indian Hawkers Association.

Even sales of induction cooktops and electric kettles have surged in the wake of cooking gas supply concerns, according to industry players.

In a first, SC okays passive...

Euthanasia, from Page 1

The court found the treatment currently being administered to the applicant constituted "medical treatment". Secondly, it has been conclusively determined that the continued administration of it is no longer in his "best interests" in view of unanimous consensus arrived at by the parents/next of kin and the constituted medical boards.

The bench said Harish was once a young, bright boy who met with a tragic, life-altering accident after falling from the fourth floor of his paying guest accommodation.

The brain injury left him in a persistent vegetative state (PSV) with 100% quadriplegia and medical reports showed his condition has not improved in the past 13 years, the bench found.

In its judgment, the bench said the applicant has lived a life defined by pain and suffering, stripped of his ability to even voice his anguish.

"We note with immense respect that the applicant's parents and siblings have stood as unyielding pillars of support. They have exhausted every effort to care for him and continue to do so with unwavering dedication. We can only place on record our deepest appreciation for their boundless love, endurance and kindness in the face of such adversity. This case reveals the most enduring is the resilience of love," the bench said.

To Harish's family, the court said, this decision can feel like an act of surrender, but it is, in truth, an act of profound compassion and courage.

"You are not giving up on your son. You are allowing him to leave with dignity. It reflects the depth of your selfless love and devotion towards him," the bench said.

Minister bats for timely revision of properties' guidance value

BENGALURU, DHNS

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Wednesday called for a timely revision of properties' guidance values, which he said would prevent illegal transactions, thereby ensuring justice for farmers losing land for projects.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said revising the guidance value from time to time would ensure justice to farmers parting with their land, in Legislative Council.

Replying to a query from BJP MLC K S Naveen in the Legislative Council, Krishna Byre Gowda said, "Revising the guidance value from time to time will ensure justice to farmers parting with their land. In some places, there is a lot of difference between the guidance value and market price, which leaves scope for illegal transactions."

Naveen pointed out that farmers losing their land were being compensated at rates fixed with the 2019 guidance value as the reference point. "Don't you think acquiring land at the 2019 guidance value rates is resulting in farmers incurring losses?" asked Naveen.

Given that the government was acquiring land for various projects, failure to revise guidance value leads to farmers incurring losses, conceded Gowda. "But there are people who would oppose revising the guidance value," he said.

Pointing to the vast difference in the guidance and market values of properties, he said, "In some cases where the guidance value is Rs 2 lakh, the market price of the property is around Rs 70 lakh to Rs 80 lakh. This is encouraging transactions involving black money."

'Govt awaiting report on exempting two-wheelers from toll on NICE Road'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government is awaiting the Cabinet sub-committee's report on exempting two-wheelers from paying toll on NICE Road, Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi informed the Legislative Council on Wednesday.

The minister was replying to a question on the subject by Congress MLC Ramoji Gowda. "A decision will be taken once the Cabinet sub-committee submits its report," said Satish.

Ramoji Gowda opined that levying toll on two-wheelers was unreasonable, given that farmers who had parted with land for the project were yet to be compensated and the proposed township yet to be developed.

Most of the two-wheeler riders used the NICE Road daily, and the toll being levied on them was extremely high, said the Congress MLC.

Consultants hired through a tender were reviewing a wide array of parameters in connection with the project. These included the company's investment for the road's construction, land acquired for the project and the revenue earned through toll collection since 2008, said Satish.

"Once the Cabinet sub-committee submits its final report, we will consider waiving toll for two-wheelers," said the Public Works Minister.

The state government was also exploring ways to improve safety of motorists on NICE Road in view of the accidents being reported on the thoroughfare, said Satish. "We are mulling over installing AI-based surveillance cameras on the road, along the lines of the system on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway. In fact, we have already installed AI cameras at two of the 40 spots finalised for their installation," he added.

'Rural road scheme delayed due to ADB objections'

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised objections with 293 rural roads selected by the state government for rebuilding under the Pragati Patha scheme, contributing to the delay in its implementation, Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge said ON Wednesday.

Under Pragati Patha, the government wants to rebuild 7,110 km of rural roads at a cost of Rs 5,180 crore. Of this, the ADB is lending Rs 3,242 crore.

"Constituency-wise, we've distributed 1,353 roads. Of them, the ADB has raised objections with 293 roads. These roads are in Bengaluru Rural, Chamarajanagar, Chikkamagaluru, Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu, Udupi and Uttara Kannada districts," Priyank said while replying to a question by Arsikere Congress MLA Shivalinge Gowda.

Objections raised by ADB are that these roads come under reserve forests, that they are prone to human-animal conflict, they contain excess length and face right-of-way issues, Priyank said.

"ADB is so meticulous that they're also looking at bird migratory patterns," Priyank said. "We've told the ADB team that these roads aren't new, they've been there for 50 years and are motorable," he said.

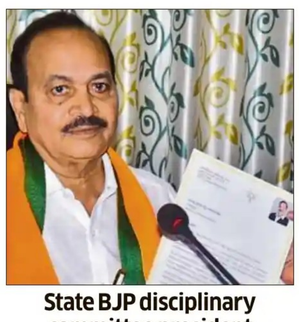
Priyank, however, maintained that all 7,110 km of roads will be completed in the next one-and-a-half years. "Detailed project reports are ready for 999 roads and 573 are ready for tenders. We'll float tenders in the next one-and-a-half months," he said.

Denied MLC ticket, Lingaraj Patil resigns as BJP disciplinary panel chief

HUBBALLI, DHNS

A day after the BJP announced sitting MLC S V Sankanur as its candidate for the Legislative Council elections from the West Graduates' constituency, Lingaraj Patil, a strong aspirant for the ticket, resigned from the post of the State BJP disciplinary committee chief on Wednesday.

"I am a loyal worker of the BJP, and I will never betray the party. Over 15 aspirants were against giving the ticket to two-time MLC Sankanur. I have worked for the party for 37 years. I had earlier missed the ticket in three MLC polls and one Rajya Sabha election at the last moment, but I worked honestly for the party," he said.



State BJP disciplinary committee president Lingaraj Patil displays his resignation letter, in Hubballi on Wednesday.

Patil, who has forwarded his resignation letter to State BJP president B Y Vijayendra, told reporters here on Wednesday that he would make a decision on his next move if the candidate is not changed in eight days.

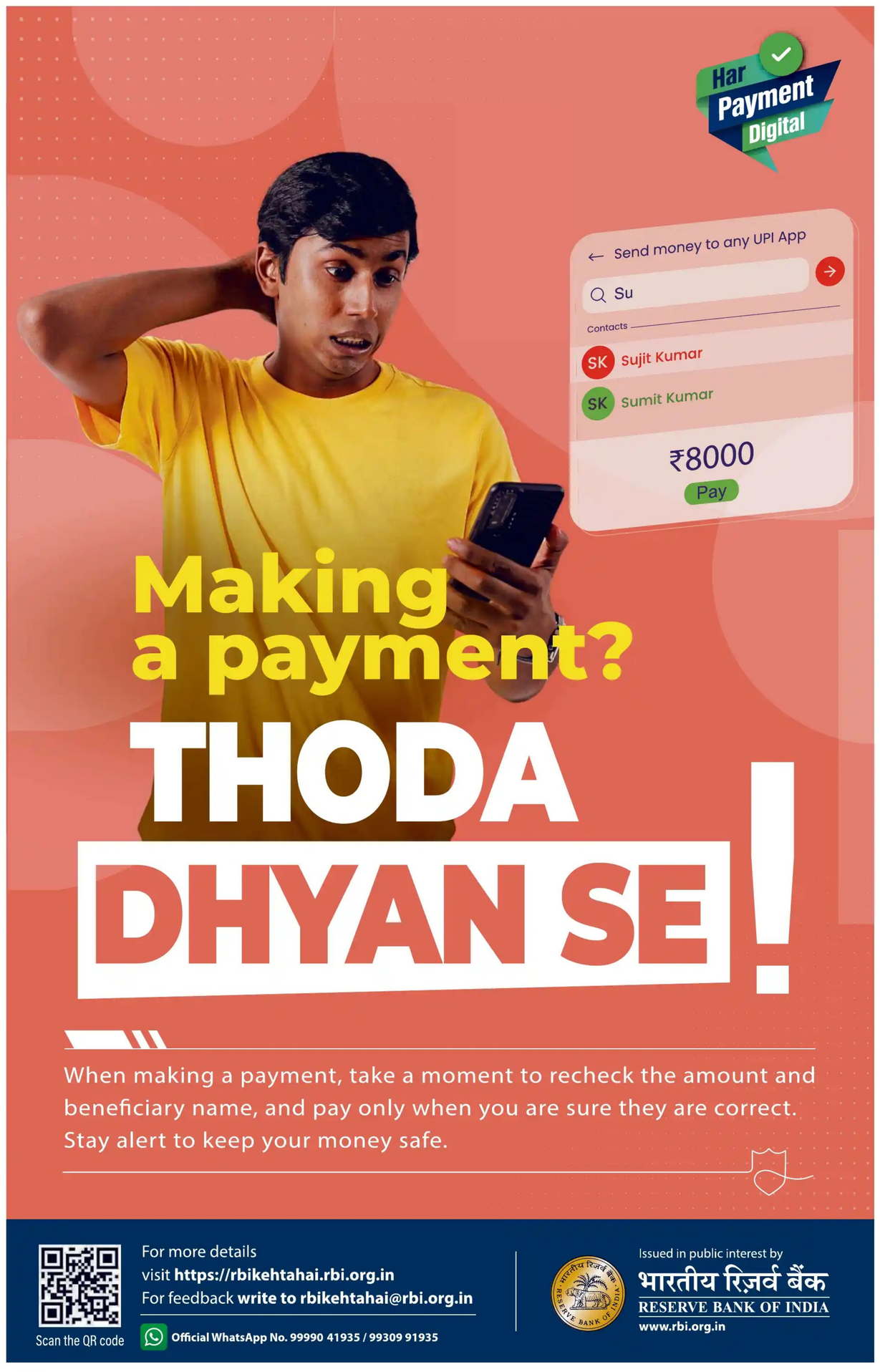
"Sankanur had said in the last elections that he would not seek a ticket again. He had earlier contested against us, before joining BJP. I don't know why I am not given a chance. It seems the party does not need loyal workers like me in today's situation," an emotional Patil added.

'Party not growing fast'

Some BJP leaders don't want the emergence of other power centre by giving ticket to new faces, and therefore, the party is not growing fast in the state, he charged.

Congress has already announced former MLC Mohan Limbikai, who was earlier with BJP, as its candidate.

Sankanur is the MLC from this segment covering Dharwad, Haveri, Gadag and Uttara Kannada districts, since 2014. His second term will end in November this year.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War shock strains energy lifeline

Disruptions in energy supplies and market volatility have signalled the first real impact of the Gulf war on India. Brent crude went above the $100-per-barrel mark last week. It softened later and is hovering around $90, but can top $100 any time. Continuing attacks on Iran, Tehran's retaliatory strikes on oil installations in the Gulf, the choke at the Strait of Hormuz, and statements by leaders, especially United States President Donald Trump, are extending the uncertainty. Oil and gas flow across the world has been disrupted. About a fifth of global LNG supplies moves through the Strait of Hormuz. India sources about 80% of its energy supplies from the world market. It imports half of its natural gas and over 60% of its LPG requirements from the Gulf region.

Amid risks of a supply crunch, the Union government assured that there would be no shortage. States such as Karnataka and Maharashtra have started experiencing an acute shortage of commercial LPG. Many hotels, restaurants, and roadside eateries have either suspended or curtailed operations. The livelihoods of many people, including caterers, workers, vendors, and delivery staff, are affected. An extended crisis may severely impact the hospitality industry. The government has already raised LPG prices, while panic is triggering overbooking and delivery delays. The price of automobile fuels may not be increased when elections are due in multiple states, but there will be a spurt in imported inflation.

LPG shortage and price pressures expose India's vulnerabilities and signal risks of a prolonged conflict

In response, the government has turned to new import sources and prioritised the production of LPG, the supply of piped natural gas for households, and CNG for transport. Fertiliser units are next in line and will receive 70% of their normal supplies, based on availability. These are followed by tea industries, manufacturing units, and other industrial consumers. The government has directed refineries to increase gas production and has set up an oversight committee to monitor the situation. By making it clear that the highest priority is meeting household energy needs, the government has tried to ensure that most people are insulated from the fallout, at least for now. The shortage of LPG, an essential commodity in most homes, will also have a political impact. By invoking the Essential Commodities Act, the government has made a statement of urgency. The scarcity in supplies may continue until the conflict eases. Without de-escalation, measures to address the supply bottlenecks will have limited impact. In this context, economical use will truly complement the increased production and damage control efforts.

Governor reshuffle and federal tensions

The latest round of gubernatorial transfers involving six states and two Union Territories centres on shifting Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi to West Bengal, replacing C V Ananda Bose, who resigned before completing his term. Kerala Governor Rajendra Arlekar will hold the additional charge in Tamil Nadu. Former diplomat Taranjit Singh Sandhu has replaced Vinai Kumar Saxena as the Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi. Saxena will shift to Ladakh, where an ongoing agitation is pushing for greater regional autonomy and constitutional and economic safeguards.

The transfers in the two poll-bound states – Tamil Nadu and West Bengal – are significant on two counts. One: Ravi's recurring confrontations with the M K Stalin-led Tamil Nadu government strengthened the narrative that the Centre's engagement with the state violated federal principles. Two: In West Bengal, after a series of standoffs, Bose was seen as sharing warmer relations with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The central government, through Ravi, one of the most disruptive governors, could be setting the tone for a face-off with Mamata. While it is unclear if the Centre has softened its approach to Tamil Nadu, it is likely to adopt a tougher stance on Mamata. Considering Ravi's tenure in Chennai, the new governor could be the man for the mission. In his previous role, Ravi delayed assent to bills passed by the state legislature, inviting strictures from the Supreme Court, and on multiple occasions, walked out of the State Assembly without delivering his special address to the House. He violated the constitutional mandate that should guide governors and acted like a political functionary, openly supporting the BJP's ideological line. Ravi's criticism of the Dravidian model of governance has only fed the argument that he was the Centre's political voice in the state. He persisted with his aggressive line despite judicial reprimands and severe criticism from civil society.

It is hard to miss the politics in R N Ravi's transfer to poll-bound West Bengal under a defiant Mamata

It is important that a governor with a record of overreach is being positioned in a state headed for a high-stakes Assembly election. A controversial Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is on in West Bengal, which indicates that about 60 lakh voters may be excluded from the list. There is even talk about President's rule being imposed in the state ahead of the election. The Lok Bhavan will be integral to the varied possibilities, and Ravi, who has not been constrained by constitutionality or federal principles, may be a natural choice as its occupant.

WHAT THE WAR SAYS

Political choice framed as civilisational clash

Identity and culture are convenient rallying points that enable powerful actors to legitimise political conflict

K NANJARAJE URS

In 1993, political scientist Samuel Huntington published his seminal article in *Foreign Affairs*, later expanded into a 1996 book titled *The Clash of Civilisations and the Remaking of World Order*. He argued that post-Cold War conflicts would pivot from economic ideological battles to cultural and religious fault lines, defining civilisations as "the highest cultural grouping of people and the broadest level of cultural identity." This thesis challenged his student Francis Fukuyama's "End of History" optimism, positing instead that liberal democracy's triumph would not usher in universal harmony but instead ignite primordial rivalries. Crucially, Huntington's framework was predictive, not merely descriptive, a distinction his critics too often collapse. Initially dismissed as reductionist, his ideas now demand re-evaluation in a world where civilisational narratives are no longer fringe rhetoric but statecraft.

Recent geopolitical tensions vividly illustrate this resurgence. The joint United States-Israeli strikes on Iran exemplify how rhetoric frames disputes as existential civilisational struggles. US officials have portrayed Iran not merely as an enemy state but as a theocratic antithesis to Western secularism. President Donald Trump has invoked Christian values to underscore this divide, declaring in speeches that "no one will be touching the cross of Christ under the Trump administration", pledging to defend "Judeo-Christian principles" against perceived threats, and most visibly, in a March 2026 Oval Office scene where evangelical pastors prayed that "wisdom from heaven to flood his heart" and "continued blessing and favour" upon him amid global challenges, fusing religious authority with executive power.

For Huntington, this would not be incidental symbolism but a deliberate civilisational signalling, transforming foreign policy into a form of eschatology. This framing elevates policy disagreements into struggles between Christian enlightenment and Islamic authoritarianism. Along with Israel, this would be the bulwark of Judeo-Christian heritage as in Eretz Yisrael, the biblical Promised Land where God's covenant with Abraham is held to anchor Jewish historical and spiritual claim to the territory. Huntington would reinforce this alliance as a civilisational front. As Edward Said warned presciently in 2001, such framing "misleads and confuses the mind" by collapsing diverse realities into monolithic blocs, manufacturing the very confrontations it claims to describe.

Iran's former President Mohammad Khatami offered the sharpest counter-vision. His 1998 Dialogue Among Civilisations, adopted by the United Nations as the theme for 2001, argued that "believing in dialogue paves the way for vivacious hope." In retrospect, Khatami's initiative was not mere idealism; it rested on the philosophical premise that civilisations are internally plural, historically porous, and incapable of monolithic agency. What Huntington treated

as fixed identities, Khatami exposed as dynamic negotiations. Yet in 2026, with US-Iran hostilities intensifying, this vision appears not just marginalised but structurally suppressed, crowded out by leaders like Marco Rubio, who at the Munich Security Conference decried migration as a "crisis destabilising societies all across the West," recasting economic anxieties as civilisational siege.

Critics expose deeper flaws in Huntington's architecture. Noam Chomsky argued it served as a post-Cold War "paradigm to control people," substituting Islam for communism as the organising enemy. Tomorrow, Hinduism could equally furnish the pretext for an external anti-India rhetoric, erasing the subcontinent's centuries of layered pluralism. Jonathan Fox's 2002 empirical analysis found civilisational conflicts constitute only a fraction of ethnic disputes, with intra-civilisational violence far more prevalent – this is a statistical rebuke to the thesis's predictive claims. Most incisively, Amartya Sen's *Identity and Violence* (2006) demonstrated that Huntington's singular civilisational categorisation is not merely oversimplified but dangerous: by reducing persons to one dominant identity, it actively generates the violence it purports to explain.

"The denial of an important liberty," Sen wrote, occurs whenever external frameworks override an individual's own negotiation of plural loyalties. This insight reframes the problem entirely; civilisational conflict is less an inevitable structural feature than a political choice, amplified by those who profit from polarisation.

Resisting the rhetoric

Deeper analysis reveals Huntington's prescience in the rhetoric's rise, yet his determinism falters against globalisation's counterforces. Transnational movements, climate activism, feminist solidarity, and digital subcultures routinely cut across his civilisational boundaries. Conflicts in Sudan or Myanmar, among 2026's gravest crises, are driven predominantly by resource competition and authoritarian consolidation, not theological difference. Even the Russia-Ukraine war, often mapped onto Orthodox versus Western fault lines, is better explained by Russia's centuries-old compulsion to secure its vast borders, a strategic anxiety exacerbated by NATO's eastward expansion. The civilisational label, applied post-hoc, obscures more than it illuminates, which may precisely be its political utility.

At the time of this article's submission, only 36% of Americans supported the war in Iran, and fewer still would likely accept that what is unfolding constitutes a civilisational struggle rather than a failure of diplomacy. Solutions lie in Khatami's dialogue, amplified through institutional architecture. Education must embed cultural literacy as a civic priority, dismantling the stereotypes that make civilisational rhetoric legible to mass audiences. International bodies must actively monitor and counter divisive narratives, channelling competition into shared frameworks, climate, pandemic response, and nuclear non-proliferation, where cooperation is structurally incentivised. As Khatami argued, "the information age is the age of dialogue," but dialogue requires institutional scaffolding, not merely goodwill.

Huntington's thesis illuminates identity's role in conflict while erring fatally on inevitability. The real danger is not that civilisations must clash; it is that enough powerful actors can make it appear they do. Philosopher Hannah Arendt's warning remains the sharper guide: the most dangerous condition for the common masses is one "where the distinction between fact and fiction, true and false, no longer exists." In that epistemic collapse, civilisational myths thrive. Resisting them demands not just dialogue, but the intellectual clarity to see past the narratives that powerful interests construct and dismantle them before they become self-fulfilling prophecies.

(The writer is a social scientist based in Australia)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Memories etched in foam

A familiar scent carries the mind back to the quiet luxuries of another time

S HARSHA

Sometimes, it takes the smallest of objects to unlock the deepest memories. Recently, when I bought a can of shaving foam, I expected nothing more than a routine addition to my bathroom shelf. But the moment I pressed the nozzle and watched the white foam rise into my palm, I found myself travelling back nearly 34 years – to a different time, a different life.

In an instant, I was no longer standing in my bathroom. I was a young man again, living in a modest middle-income home where every purchase was considered carefully and every expense measured. Imported products were rare luxuries – objects you saw more often in shop windows than in your home.

That was also the year my cousin, Poojitha Rao, then a student at the National Law School of India, travelled to Washington, DC, to participate in a moot court competition. For our family, the very idea felt remarkable. A young member of our family flying abroad to compete at an international stage filled us with pride.

She returned not just with stories of her journey but with something even more memorable in its quiet generosity. With the limited money she must have had as a student, she brought back small gifts for her cousins and family members. Among them were two cans of shaving foam – one for my cousin Ravi and one for me.

Today, such a gift may sound ordinary. But at that time, receiving shaving foam from the US felt almost grand. It was probably the first gift I had received as an adult. I remember examining the can closely – turning it over in my hands, reading the English labels, and admiring the sleek foreign design.

It was not merely shaving foam. It represented affection, thoughtfulness, and pride in being remembered. I used it sparingly, almost with reverence. That single can lasted for four years. Even an everyday routine felt slightly special.

Then, one day, Ravi – who is sadly no longer with us – mentioned that the foam irritated his skin. Without much fuss, he handed his can over to me. And just like that, the gift doubled.

His can lasted another two years or perhaps even longer. Two cans that had travelled across oceans because a young cousin thought of us while standing in a foreign land ended up giving me nearly six years of daily use. Life, of course, moved forward. Brands changed. Priorities shifted. People came and went. And now, after more than three decades, I happened to buy the same shaving foam again and began using it about a week ago. When I pressed the nozzle this time, the familiar scent rose gently in the air – and with it came a flood of memories. Poojitha's achievement. Ravi's quiet generosity. Our simple home. And the warmth of knowing that someone had thought of us from thousands of miles away.

A can of shaving foam isn't expected to carry much emotion. Yet, sometimes the smallest objects become vessels for the biggest memories. This new can may or may not last for four years. But the memory of the first one will last a lifetime.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Burden on households

Apropos 'Firewood, menu cut: Hotels' desperate steps amid gas woes' (Mar 11), the impact of the US-Israel-Iran conflict is being felt in India. LPG supply disruptions have led to price increases for domestic cylinders, straining household budgets. The hospitality sector is also affected, with hotels and restaurants reducing menu offerings or shutting down. Global crude price surges have raised aviation fuel costs, leading to higher ticket prices. The government should absorb part of the shock to avoid steep price hikes, which fuel inflation and worsen living costs.
N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

Focus on the present

It is unfortunate to hear MPs debating expelling the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Some parliamentarians have exceeded themselves with one-sided research, focusing on past events. The focus should be on recent actions and the reasons behind the move. Anyone watching parliamentary proceedings can see how the Speaker allowed certain things to happen, treated opposition leaders sternly, and suspended them.
Hemachandra Basappa, Bengaluru

Preventive education key

The recent Kanakapura Road accident highlights reckless driving among young people, putting lives at risk. A long-term solution lies in preventive education. Road safety, civic responsibility, and disciplined driving should be introduced in school curricula. Young people must understand the consequences of negligent driving before obtaining licences.
Aravind Murthy T S, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

There is no difference of opinion, no sadness. We are happy. We are contesting three seats under the DMK symbol and one under the symbol allotted to us (by the ECI).

Vaiko, MDMK Chief, after striking the seat-sharing deal with DMK

Compromise makes a good umbrella, but a poor roof.

James Russell Lowell

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

BJP's ascent through alliance

Bihar validates a tested BJP strategy – building on the base of regional partners to secure unilateral power

NILANJAN MUKHOPADHYAY

Often termed as the 'Phoenix of Indian Politics', Nitish Kumar – who took oath as Chief Minister of Bihar on November 20 – is unlikely to rise again. Since beating a hasty retreat in December 2023 into the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) fold, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the unapologetic hegemon, Kumar's only dignified option seemed to be a graceful exit.

The Janata Dal (United) leader's departure from Patna's chief ministerial chamber, however, will not translate into a front-door entry of the BJP into the state's highest office. Instead, it remains a backdoor arrangement until the BJP musters the courage to seek the people's mandate on its own, and not step into the portals of power by clinging to the coattails of a formidable ally.

Unlike the BJP leaders of the NDA's first tenure under Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the current leadership places little value on alliance partners. Coalitions are seen less as partnerships of principle and policy, and more as instruments of political power. From 2004 onwards, when the NDA formed the government in Bihar with Kumar as chief minister, the BJP accepted its role as junior partner to the JD(U), seeing it as a pathway to eventual dominance in the state.

Nitish Kumar is not the first ally that the BJP has used as a stepping stone to unilateral power, nor will he be the last. The fate of the Shiv Sena – first united, then the breakaway unit headed by Eknath Shinde – is well known. Likewise, is the destiny that has befallen the Janata Dal (Secular) in Karnataka, the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu, and many would say, even the Shiromani Akali Dal in Punjab.

In the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the BJP may not have explicitly projected Shinde as its electoral mascot, unlike in Bihar, where the mandate was sought in Nitish Kumar's name. Yet, while Kumar – mockingly dubbed *Paltu Ram* for his frequent political somersaults – and the JD(U) are facing marginalisation, Shinde's camp too seems destined for decline as Devendra Fadnavis consolidates his hold on Maharashtra.

Despite the insistent clamour that Nitish Kumar would serve a full term as chief minister, long stretches of silence accompanied the road to the eventual mandate. Questions remained unanswered, and when Kumar did respond, his erratic public behaviour and ill-timed remarks only deepened uncertainty. The long tweet and reasoning for seeking a Rajya Sabha seat have found few takers. For the BJP, the challenge is not merely to find a credible replacement for Kumar but also to simultaneously ensure that the people do not rise in anger at the BJP's misleading campaign.

Kumar's alliance with the BJP was both paradoxical and opportunistic. He, however, retained a veneer of his Mandal political roots, while the BJP pushed its Kamandal politics. The extent to which this can be the sole guiding principle remains unknown. The BJP faces the daunting task of furthering Hindutva while not being seen as coarsely eroding the political balance of Bihar.

The dominant partner

Following the BJP's unexpected electoral majority in 2014, many argued that the coalition era had ended, and India was returning to single-party dominance. Despite this idea appearing premature after the BJP's loss of majority in 2024, it has staged a comeback. Under Modi, the BJP makes no bones about its intention within the polity, and also in the Sangh parivar. His decision to appoint a previously unknown face as party president underscores his determination to retain functional autonomy.

In contrast to the BJP's domineering presence within the ruling front, the Opposition remains multi-headed, with the Congress showing little intention of subsuming others, especially regional parties. Many would say this is because Congress lacks the capacity to reduce regional parties to the margins. Despite its inability to stage an electoral comeback, save in fits and starts, the Congress has resisted regional satraps' attempts to take pole position within the opposition bloc. It has paid with costly consequences – various leaders and parties broke ranks; Mamata Banerjee, for instance, and Nitish Kumar too. Because independent India's past demonstrates that democracy thrives when social and political majoritarian forces are kept at bay, the Congress has to decide on its immediate objective: pose a serious challenge jointly, or be content with a lonesome and inconsequential leadership.

Against this backdrop, Nitish Kumar's move to the Upper House sends troubling signals for the future of Indian politics.

(The writer is a journalist and author of Narendra Modi: The Man, The Times *and* The RSS: Icons of the Indian Right*)*

Vande Mataram and BJP's dilemma in Christian-majority states

DATELINE Guwahati

SUMIR KARMAKAR

When *Vande Mataram* was played in the presence of Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan at the Nagaland University convocation on March 6, an unusual scene unfolded. Many students and research scholars at the central university neither stood up nor sang the national song—something that is usually observed as part of protocol.

Videos of the incident, which went viral on social media, came as a surprise for many. But the episode followed strong objections and protests in the Christian-dominated Nagaland. From MLAs to student bodies, many had already opposed the Centre's directive in January making it compulsory to sing all six stanzas of *Vande Mataram* in government events and in educational institutions. The directive, according to critics, infringes upon the religious faith and constitutional rights of the Nagas.

The Naga Students' Federation (NSF), an influential student body formed in October 1947, was quick to raise objections, saying the directive regarding *Vande Mataram* could hurt the sentiments of the Christian Nagas, as it carries "strong and undeniable religious connotations rooted in the worship of Hindu deities." The student body also stated that any attempt to enforce or institutionalise the recitation of such a song within the Nagaland Assembly or any public institutions in the Naga homeland directly violates the spirit and safeguards enshrined under Article 371 (A), which protects the unique religious and social practices of the Nagas.

The issue also raised a storm on the floor of the Assembly on March 5 when many MLAs, including the Naga People's Front (NPF), which leads the ruling alliance, objected to singing all six stanzas of *Vande Mataram*. This forced the Assembly to refer the matter to a Select Committee. The Bharatiya Janata Party is a major ally of the coalition government in Nagaland.

"The attempt to portray the song as purely secular and historical deliberately ignores the legitimate concerns raised by communities whose faith and cultural identity do not align with its religious imagery," NSF said while condemning BJP leader and minister Temjen Imna Along, who tried to defend the Centre's directive.

"In trying to endorse the Centre's move, he appears more concerned with pleasing his political bosses in Delhi than safeguarding the rights and sensitivities of the Naga people. No individual or political representatives have the mandate to dilute or compromise the hard-earned rights of the Naga people," it said. Nagaland has an 87% Christian population.

Special protection

Many in Nagaland believe that Nagas were never part of India, a sentiment that fuelled a violent movement after 1947. The decades-long Naga conflict has still remained unresolved, and this prompted the Centre over the years to offer various safeguards to win over the confidence of the communities in Nagaland.

Tribal-dominated states such as Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya enjoy safeguards under Article 371, and any central acts or directives need the endorsement of the state assembly for enforcement or implementation. Tribal-dominated areas in Assam and Tripura also enjoy some level of autonomy under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Meghalaya and Mizoram, two other Christian-majority states in the Northeast, also witnessed similar objections. Adelbert Nongrum, an MLA of the opposition Voice of Peoples Party, said he was not against the practice of singing the first two stanzas but considers the Centre's directive to make all six stanzas compulsory as an "imposition and infringement" on the freedom of religion. "As a Christian, I would like to quote the first of the Ten Commandments."

The missing consent

From the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) to the demand for a ban on beef by many BJP leaders and now the directive regarding *Vande Mataram*, the BJP-led Narendra Modi government has faced backlash in the Northeast, particularly in the Christian-majority Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya, and also in areas under the autonomous councils set up under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The CAA seeks to offer Indian citizenship to non-Muslim "persecuted" migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan till 2014. Strong protests, sometimes violent, against the CAA finally forced the Centre to exempt these areas from the purview of the Act, while the Inner Line Permit System—travel permits for outsiders—was introduced in Manipur in 2020. It already exists in Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

Mizo Zirlai Pwal (MZP), an influential students' body in Mizoram, questioned why such a decision was taken without discussion with communities practising diverse religions and customs. "The Centre should reconsider and respect India's secular status and address this urgently, ensuring that no community is forced to compromise on their faith," it said.

"The educational institutions should remain spaces dedicated to learning and not be used to impose cultural or political mandates. Without proper deliberation and discussion, nothing should be forced upon schools or colleges," the body added.

DHNS

Before the attack, President Trump downplayed the risks to the energy markets as a short-term concern that should not overshadow the mission to decapitate the Iranian regime

MARK MAZZETTI, TYLER PAGER AND EDWARD WONG

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Hormuz crisis exposes gaps in Trump's Iran war plan

On February 18, as US President Donald Trump weighed whether to launch military attacks on Iran, Chris Wright, the energy secretary, told an interviewer he was not concerned that the looming war might disrupt oil supplies in the Middle East and wreak havoc in energy markets.

Even during the Israeli and US strikes against Iran last June, Wright said, there had been little disruption in the markets. "Oil prices blipped up and then went back down," he said. Some of Trump's other advisers shared similar views in private, dismissing warnings that — the second time around — Iran might wage economic warfare by closing shipping lanes carrying roughly 20% of the world's oil supply.

The extent of that miscalculation was laid bare in recent days, as Iran threatened to fire at commercial oil tankers transiting the Strait of Hormuz, the strategic choke point through which all ships must pass on their way out of the Persian Gulf. In response to the Iranian threats, commercial shipping has come to a standstill in the Gulf, oil prices have spiked, and the Trump administration has scrambled to find ways to tamp down an economic crisis that has triggered higher gasoline prices for Americans.

The episode is emblematic of how much Trump and his advisers misjudged how Iran would respond to a conflict that the government in Tehran, Iran's capital, sees as an existential threat. Iran has responded far more aggressively than it did during last June's 12-day war, firing barrages of missiles and drones at US military bases, cities in Arab nations across west Asia, and on Israeli population centres.

US officials have had to adjust plans on the fly, from hastily ordering the evacuation of embassies to developing policy proposals to reduce gas prices.

After Trump administration officials gave a closed-door briefing to lawmakers on Tuesday, Democrat Senator Christopher S Murphy said on social media that the administration had "NO PLAN" for the Strait of Hormuz and did "not know how to get it safely back open."

Inside the administration, some officials are growing pessimistic about the lack of a clear strategy to finish the war. But they have been careful not to express that directly to the president, who has repeatedly declared that the military operation is a complete success.

Trump has laid out maximalist goals such as insisting that Iran name a leader who will submit to him, while Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth have described narrower and more tactical objectives that could provide an off-ramp in the near term.

Karoline Leavitt, the White House press secretary, said the administration "had a strong game plan" before the war broke out, and vowed that oil prices would drop after it ended.

"The purposeful disruption in the oil market by the Iranian regime is short term, and necessary for the long-term gain of wiping out these terrorists and the threat they pose to America and the world," she said in a statement.

This article is based on interviews with a dozen US officials, who asked for anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Hegseth acknowledged Tuesday that Iran's ferocious response against its neighbours caught the Pentagon somewhat off guard. But he insisted that Iran's actions were backfiring.

Trump has displayed growing frustration over how the war is disrupting the oil supply, telling *Fox News* that oil tanker crews should "show some guts" and sail through the Strait of Hormuz.

Some military advisers did warn before the war that Iran could launch an aggressive campaign in response, and would view the US-Israeli attack as a threat to its existence. But other advisers remained confident that killing Iran's senior leadership would lead to more pragmatic leaders taking over who might bring an end to the war.

When Trump was briefed about risks that oil prices could rise in the event of war, he acknowledged the possibility but downplayed it as a short-term concern that should not overshadow the mission to decapitate the Iranian regime. He directed Wright and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to work on developing options for a potential spike in prices.

But the president did not speak publicly about these options — including political risk insurance backed by the US government, and the potential of US Navy escorts — until more than 48 hours after the conflict started. The escorts have not yet taken place.

As the conflict has roiled global markets, Republicans in Washington have grown concerned about rising oil prices damaging their efforts to sell an economic agenda to voters ahead of the midterm elections.

Trump, both publicly and privately, has been arguing that Venezuelan oil could help solve any shocks coming from the Iran war. The administration announced Tuesday a new refinery in Texas that officials said could help increase oil supply, ensuring that Iran does not cause any long-term damage to oil markets.

The confidence that White House officials had that the shipping lanes could stay open is surprising given that Trump authorised a military campaign last year against the Houthis, a Yemeni group backed by Iran, that had used missile and drone attacks to bring maritime commerce in the Red Sea to a halt.

In a social media post last March announcing he had authorised military strikes against the Houthis, Trump said that the attacks had cost the global economy billions of dollars, and that "no terrorist force will stop American commercial and naval vessels from freely sailing the Waterways of the World."

But since the start of the war in Iran, Trump has not offered a consistent message. In private, his aides have said they feel frustration over his lack of discipline in communicating the objectives of the military campaign to the public.

Trump has said both that the war could go on for more than month and that it was "very complete, pretty much." He also said the United States would "go forward more determined than ever."

Rubio and Hegseth, however, appear to have coordinated their messaging for now on three discrete goals that they began laying out in public remarks Monday and Tuesday.

"The goals of this mission are clear," Rubio said at a State Department event on Monday before Trump held his own news conference. "It is to destroy the ability of this regime to launch missiles, both by destroying their missiles and their launchers; destroy the factories that make these missiles; and destroy their navy."

The State Department even laid out the three goals in bullet-point fashion, and highlighted a video clip of Rubio stating them on an official social media account.

The presentation by Rubio, who is also the White House national security adviser, appeared to be setting the stage for the president to bring an end to the war sooner rather than later. In his news conference, Trump boasted of how the US military had already destroyed Iran's ballistic missile capability and its navy. But he also warned of even more aggressive action if Iranian leaders tried to cut off the world's energy supply.

Matthew Pottinger, who was a deputy national security adviser in the first Trump administration, said in an interview that Trump had indicated he could decide to pursue ambitious war goals that would take weeks at least.

"In his press conference, I could hear him circling back to a rationale for fighting a bit longer given that the regime is still signalling it won't be deterred and is still trying to control the Strait of Hormuz," said Pottinger, now chair of the China program at the Foundation for Defence of Democracies, a group that advocates a close US partnership with Israel and confrontation with Iran.

The New York Times

A budget of schemes, not outcomes

PRAKASH NEDUNGADI

Budget speeches should not merely list expenditures and schemes, punctuated with slogans and quotations. For a state like Karnataka—whose economy is larger than that of many countries—citizens expect something more: a clear vision, a strategy for growth, and measurable outcomes for the taxpayer's money.

Unfortunately, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's budget for 2026–27 offers little of that. Instead, it reads largely as a catalogue of activities: "This sector is important; we will spend this much." What is missing is accountability. What will actually change because of this spending?

Across sectors—agriculture, education, healthcare, infrastructure, and industry—the budget repeatedly lists schemes and allocations but rarely explains the outcomes they are meant to deliver. That absence of measurable goals is the single biggest weakness of the budget.

Take agriculture. The government promises micro-irrigation and farm machinery support for lakhs of farmers and announces dozens of irrigation works. But what will this achieve? How much will agricultural productivity rise? How many additional hectares will be irrigated? How much will farmer incomes improve? Without such targets, it becomes impossible to judge whether public spending is delivering results.

The same pattern appears in animal husbandry. The budget proposes upgrading 15 veterinary hospitals into polyclinics at a cost of Rs 10 crore. But what difference will this upgrade make for livestock productivity or farmer incomes? And when Karnataka has more than 230 taluks, upgrading just a handful of facilities will hardly change the state-wide picture.

Education policy shows a similar lack of clarity. The government proposes converting 800 government schools into Karnataka Public Schools with an expenditure of Rs 3,900 crore over three years. Yet the budget does not explain what improvement in learning outcomes this investment will deliver.

Similarly, Rs 841 crore has been allocated to prepare 26,821 students for competitive examinations. That works out to more than Rs 3 lakh per student. While any spending on building a better future for children is welcome, the result this spending is expected to produce should also be spelt out.

In Delhi, when the Aam Aadmi Party government undertook a transformation of government schools, the goal was clear: improve learning outcomes. Within a decade, government school results improved so much that CBSE pass percentages were higher than many private schools, and thousands of students entered top universities and professional institutions.

The real challenge is not merely spending money but improving outcomes and holding the system accountable for results.

Some announcements in the budget also raise serious questions about policy thinking. For instance, 31 crore has been allocated to upgrade "girls' infrastructure" in 31 colleges where girls' enrolment exceeds 50 per cent. But what about colleges where girls' enrolment is lower? Shouldn't adequate infrastructure for girls be available in every institution?

The budget also raises concerns about efficiency in public spending. The government proposes constructing a 450-bed hospital in Karwar at a cost of Rs 198 crore — roughly Rs 44 lakh per bed. In Delhi, world-class government hospitals have been built at around Rs 20 lakh per bed, less than half that cost.

Similarly, the state proposes to spend about Rs 17,000–18,000 crore on the controversial 17-kilometre north–south tunnel road in Bengaluru — nearly Rs 1,000 crore per kilometre. Metro rail infrastructure, by contrast, typically costs about Rs 700–750 crore per kilometre and serves far larger numbers of commuters. When resources are limited, expanding mass transit may be a far more sensible priority than expensive tunnel projects.

More worrying is the lack of focus on employment. The budget highlights Rs 30,000 crore of private investment in the Dharwad node of the Mumbai–Bengaluru Industrial Corridor, expected to generate about 75,000 jobs. That implies roughly Rs 40 lakh of investment for each job created.

Karnataka urgently needs job-creating sectors that absorb large numbers of young workers. Export-oriented apparel parks, toy manufacturing clusters and tourism could generate employment at scale. Yet these sectors receive little strategic attention in the budget.

Karnataka's tourism potential alone could generate many times the income it does today if the state invested systematically in airports, hospitality infrastructure, destination development and global marketing.

A state budget should answer a simple question: what do we want to have achieved by next year (and then five or ten years from now) from the decisions we take today?

On that fundamental question, this budget remains silent.

(The writer is the treasurer, AAP Karnataka)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MARCH 1976

MPs rap Kissinger for remarks on nuclear policy

New Delhi, March 11

Two members of the Lok Sabha today took strong exception to U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's comment on India's nuclear policy at a recent question answer session in Wyoming University. External Affairs Minister Y. B. Chavan shared the members' feelings, but did not wish to comment on the propriety of Dr. Kissinger making a reference to India. He disagreed with a suggestion that India send a formal protest note. India's stated policy on nuclear explosion for peaceful purposes was "very well known", he said.

25 YEARS AGO: MARCH 2001

Gopichand lifts All England Open badminton trophy

Birmingham, March 11

Pullela Gopichand won the 2001 Yonex All England Open badminton Champi-onships in fine style today, beating Chen Hong of China 15-12, 15-6 in the final. He became only the second Indian to win this tournament after Prakash Padukone won in 1980. There were scenes of jubilation among Indian supporters at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham when the final came to an exciting finish. "Winning the All England Open is the dream of all badminton players. I am very happy," he told *DH* after the historic triumph.

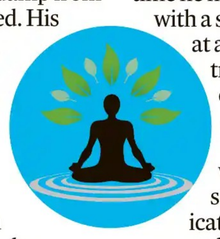
OASIS | KANDASWAMY GNANAMURTHY

Stress is no excuse to hurt others

People readily consult doctors for physical ailments, but are far more hesitant when it comes to psychological distress. There are many mild cases where a person is aware that something in their behaviour has changed--changes that affect not only themselves but also those close to them.

Several years ago, a junior colleague developed a curious compulsion to wash his hands repeatedly. After receiving the change from a bus conductor, for example, he would feel the urge wash both his hands and the coins.

There were endless trips to the washbasin--after shaking hands with colleagues or even after receiving papers from the office assistant. His trouser pockets were often damp from wet hand kerchiefs he carried. His hands had grown pale from excessive washing with soap. While we took all this in our stride, his wife found it increasingly distressing and called me one day in despair.



At the time, a well-known psychologist was teaching behavioural sciences in my evening classes, and I referred my colleague to him. The rest, as they say, was history. After a few sessions, my colleague began to open up about his anxieties and uncovered the source of his fear. For a long time he had repeatedly seen a person with a severe skin condition sitting at a street corner. The sight had triggered an intense fear of contamination that slowly developed into a phobia.

Once the source of anxiety was recognised and with some gentle therapy and medication, he gradually returned to normal life. What a relief it was to his wife, to all of us and most of all to him. For some reason, I have long been drawn to writings on psychoanalysis -- the works of Sigmund Freud, and Carl Jung, and later the remarkable life story of John Nash, who lived years with paranoid schizophrenia.

Perhaps the most compassionate thing we can do is to ensure those around us seek help before distress grows overwhelming. If someone close to us shows signs of persistent anxiety, phobia or compulsive behaviour, it is important to gently encourage them to consult a counsellor or mental health professional. Equally, if a person senses early on that their behaviour is troubling them or causing distress to those around them, it takes courage—but also responsibility—to seek professional guidance in time.

Centre urged to enact law on passive euthanasia

SC says existing guidelines not substitute for legislation

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Thursday urged the Union government to consider enacting a comprehensive legislation on passive euthanasia, in consonance with the vision of the constitution bench judgment in the Common Cause case of 2018.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Vishwanathan said such a legislation would provide more clarity, coherence, and certainty to these pertinent, practical and emotionally charged issues.

"The prolonged absence of a comprehensive legislation on end-of-life care has compelled this court, time and again, to step in to fill the vacuum, out of constitutional necessity rather than institutional choice. While the guidelines as laid down in Common Cause have served as an important interim safeguard to protect the right to live and die with dignity, they were never intended to operate as a permanent substitute for legislation," the bench said.

The Common Cause 2018 judgment stated any decision to withdraw or withhold medical treatment must withstand scrutiny on two primary grounds: first, the intervention in question must qualify as "medical treatment", and second, its withdrawal must strictly be in the patient's "best interests".

In its decision, the court also asked the High Courts of all states to issue appropriate directions to all Judicial Magistrates of First Class (JMFC) within their jurisdiction to receive intimation from the hospital, in accordance with the guidelines as laid down in Common Cause, in the event the primary medical board and secondary medical board are unanimous in their decision to withdraw and/or withhold the medical treatment of any patient.

The bench directed the Union government to ensure that the CMOs of all concerned districts across the country, prepare and maintain a panel consisting of registered medical practitioners possessing qualifications in accordance with the guidelines as laid down in Common Cause, for nomination to the secondary medical board.

The court said, the panel so prepared would be periodically reviewed and updated by the CMOs at regular intervals not exceeding twelve months, to ensure availability, suitability, and continued compliance with the requirements under the guidelines as laid down in the Common Cause case.

"It shall be the duty of the Secretaries of Health & Family Welfare of each State/UT to make sure that such periodic review and updation at regular intervals is undertaken," the bench said.

WHAT COURT SAID

The cumulative effect of prolonged legislative inaction is leaving citizens, particularly those situated at the most vulnerable threshold of life, exposed to serious and systemic risk. In the absence of a clear and comprehensive legislation, end-of-life decisions stand imperilled by the possibility that considerations wholly extraneous to medical science or the patient's autonomy, most notably financial distress, lack of insurance coverage, or socio-economic vulnerability, may imperceptibly shape outcomes. Such a vacuum creates the danger that decisions ostensibly grounded in compassion or clinical futility may, in reality, be driven by the inability of families to sustain prolonged and expensive medical intervention, thereby blurring the line between a genuine best-interest determination and an act compelled by economic exhaustion.

DH DECIPHERS

SC ruling on passive euthanasia and what the law says

The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed the withdrawal of life support from Harish Rana, a 32-year-old man who suffered a grievous injury in an accident in 2013 and has since been in a permanent vegetative state. **Sumit Pande** *explains the apex court order permitting the first-ever passive euthanasia in India.*

What was the petition before the SC?
The elderly parents of Harish Rana had approached the SC seeking passive euthanasia for their comatose son. The Delhi High Court had rejected their petition on the grounds that the case didn't qualify for passive euthanasia as per the guidelines laid down by the apex court. The HC felt that the patient was not on life support but was being fed through a feeding tube. In 2024, Harish's parents challenged this order before the SC. The apex court initially declined to grant relief, but allowed the petitioners to approach the courts again if they felt the need to do so.

What is the legal status of euthanasia in India?
Euthanasia, or painless killing of a terminally ill patient, was illegal in India for decades. Any attempt to inflict death on a patient on life support was deemed culpable homicide, inviting penal action. The Parliament has also not legislated on the issue. It was the 2011 landmark Supreme Court Judgement in the Aruna Shanbaug case that first dealt with the legal vacuum.

What was the Aruna Shanbaug case?
Aruna Shanbaug, then a 24-year-old nurse at Mumbai's KEM Hospital, was assaulted by a ward boy in 1973, leading to severe brain injuries. She survived the attack but remained in a persistent vegetative state, nursed by her colleagues at the hospital. Journalist-activist Pinki Virani filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court in 2009 seeking that hospital staff stop feeding Aruna to let the patient "die peacefully".

What did the court say in that case?
In its judgment delivered in March 2011, an apex court bench headed by Justice Markandey Katju laid down a process and allowed high courts to pass a suitable order on an application filed by the kith and kin of patients seeking permission to withdraw the life support from a terminally ill or incapacitated person. The court said at least two judges must approve the petition based on the opinion of a panel of three reputable doctors.

How did the 2018 order by a larger SC bench define euthanasia?
The NGO Common Cause approached the Supreme Court pleading that terminally ill patients should not be subjected to cruel treatments. The five-member bench in its order recognised the right to die with dignity for terminally ill patients, allowing them to opt for passive euthanasia by executing a living will and refusing medical treatment, thereby leading to passive euthanasia. The apex court also mandated approvals from two different medical boards for all such cases.

What is the difference between active and passive euthanasia?
In active euthanasia, death is caused by medical intervention, such as administering a lethal injection. Passive euthanasia is an act of withdrawing treatment, including life support.

What were the changes in the SC euthanasia guidelines of 2023?
In a 2023 order, the SC further modified its earlier guidelines to ease the process of passive euthanasia. The court simplified the procedure by allowing the attestation of the living will by a notary or a gazetted officer. The court also made a provision for an appeal before HCs in cases where the process was denied.

What has the apex court said in the Harish Rana case?
The two-member bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan, in its order, ruled that as per the guideline laid down in the 2018 judgement, the medical board could exercise its "clinical judgement" regarding withdrawal of life support, lauding Harish's parents for caring and never leaving their son.

What is the euthanasia law in other countries?
Countries like the Netherlands and Belgium allow for both active and passive euthanasia for patients who face "unbearable suffering". Australian law also permits both types of euthanasia for patients of sound mind, for terminally ill patients who may not survive more than a year.

Harish Rana was a gymming, football enthusiast

NEW DELHI, PTI

HARISH RANA

Thirty-two-year-old Harish Rana was a gymming and football enthusiast and was pursuing a BTech degree at Panjab University in 2013 when he fell from the fourth floor of his paying guest accommodation and sustained a brain injury, leading to a coma.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday permitted the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment for Rana, who has been lying in a comatose condition for over 13 years, noting that prospects of his recovery are negligible.

Rana's brother Ashish recalled they used to play football and video games together.

His relatives and friends shared that he was extremely energetic, physically active, and deeply interested in games before his accident.

Passive euthanasia is the intentional act of letting a patient die by withholding or withdrawing life support or the treatment necessary to keep him alive.

Ghaziabad native Rana met with the tragic accident on August 20, 2013, resulting in a diffuse axonal injury. The eldest of the three siblings, he was initially rushed to a local hospital, but within a few hours, he had to be shifted to the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh due to the severity of his medical condition.

From August 21, 2013, to August 27, 2013, Rana remained admitted at the PGI Chandigarh, where he was administered treatment in the form of conservative management, including AED, analgesics, ventilating support, antibiotics, tracheostomy, and feeding through a Ryle's tube (nasogastric tube).

Although he was discharged from PGI Chandigarh on August 27, 2013, his condition remained far from recovery.

Following his discharge, his fragile health condition necessitated frequent hospital admissions and regular medical treatments for his head injury, seizures, pneumonia and bedsores at the Jai Prakash Narayan Trauma Centre, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

Harish Rana's medical records show that he had a history of seizures in 2014, for which he was put on medication.

His medical reports indicate that he exhibits no evidence of awareness of his environment and is incapable of interacting with others.

It's extremely painful, says father

GHAZIABAD, PTI: The father of Harish Rana, in a coma for more than 13 years, on Wednesday said that the Supreme Court permitting the withdrawal of artificial life support to his son won't bring any personal benefit to the family, but in the larger public interest, the decision could help others facing similar situations.

Ashok Rana, who had pleaded before the apex court that allowing passive euthanasia will restore his son's dignity after years of irreversible suffering, said, "As a father, it is extremely painful. No parent would ever want to see their son in such a condition."

Ashok Rana described the decision as extremely difficult but said it was taken in Harish's best interests and expressed hope that the ruling would help other families facing similar situations.

"We believe that in the larger public interest, the decision could help families of many people who may be in a condition like Harish," he said while speaking briefly to reporters outside his residence here.

He said the ruling would not bring any personal benefit to the family but was taken with a heavy heart.

SUPREME COURT

"We note with immense respect that the applicant's parents and siblings have stood as unyielding pillars of support. They have exhausted every effort to care for him and continue to do so with unwavering dedication. We can only place on record our deepest appreciation for their boundless love, endurance, and kindness in the face of such adversity.

He, however, thanked the Supreme Court for hearing their plea and passing what he described as a "humane order".

Officials said the family originally hails from Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. Ashok Rana had worked in the catering department of a private hotel at the IGI Airport in New Delhi from 1989 until his retirement in February 2021 and currently sustains the family through his pension and by preparing and selling food items from home.

While admitting that the family was preparing to shift Harish to AIIMS, Ashok Rana said they hadn't decided on the time yet.

"We haven't decided on that yet, as we await family members' arrival. Also, that (shifting process) is subject to when the official consent arrives," he said.

Later in a statement, the family said they approached the Supreme Court after realising that their son's condition was incurable and irreversible and sought only the implementation of the guidelines on withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment.

They said the court had clarified that the decision did not amount to "active euthanasia" but involved withdrawal of the feeding tube and providing palliative care so that the natural process of death could take place with dignity.

Neighbours said the family had gone out of their way to get their son treated. Ashok Rana and his wife Nirmala had sold their house in Delhi to meet the medical expenses of their son, some locals said.

They added that Ashok Rana now receives a monthly pension of about Rs 3,600.

DMK infamous for its scientific corruption model: Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with AIADMK general Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, PMK president Anbumani Ramadoss and others during an NDA election campaign meeting in Tiruchirappalli. PTI

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tore into the DMK on Wednesday, saying that it was famous for its "scientific corruption model", accusing it of betraying the people's mandate it got in 2021.

"What's the condition of Tamil Nadu today? Under the DMK govt, violent crimes against women have become common. Recently, everyone saw the horrible news related to a DMK member who did not spare a little girl. Today, criminals roam fearlessly, harming women," PM Modi said, addressing a rally in Tiruchirapalli.

Modi said in DMK, everything starts and ends with one family, and that ministers may change, MLAs may change, but power remains with one dynasty.

"The DMK is infamous for its scientific corruption model. Today, the same model is being used to make Tamil Nadu an ATM for one family," he alleged.

He also spoke about Municipal Administration Minister K N Nehru, against whom the ED has alleged a Rs 800-crore cash-for-jobs scam, saying that when jobs are sold for money, dreams of the middle class and poor are destroyed.

"Where all this money goes, just like rivers go to sea, all corrupt money in TN goes to one family," Modi said, targeting Chief Minister M K Stalin's government.

Sharing the stage yet again with leaders of all political parties in the NDA, including AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami, Modi maintained that the next government will be run by the NDA, contradicting the AIADMK's stand that it will be a single-party dispensation.

However, Union Minister and BJP's election in charge for Tamil Nadu, Piyush Goyal, said AIADMK is the leader of the NDA in the state and that Palaniswami is the CM candidate.

Kerala govt skips PM event, protests exclusion of PWD Minister Riyas

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Kerala on Wednesday witnessed high political drama as Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and other ministers boycotted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's programme in the state, expressing displeasure over the exclusion of Public Works Minister PA Mohammed Riyas from the event.

The Prime Minister inaugurated development projects worth Rs 10,800 crore, including the widened Thalapady–Chengala and Vengalam–Ramanattukara stretches of NH-66. The CPM had sought Riyas's participation as the projects fall under the public works portfolio.

The CPM leadership said Riyas was sidelined from the event even though Kerala BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar was included.

Discrimination

CPM state secretary M V Govindan said the move was yet another instance of discrimination by the BJP-led Union government towards Kerala.

As a mark of protest, CPM workers led by Riyas carried out a roadshow along the NH-66 stretches ahead of their formal inauguration by the Prime Minister.

Apart from the Chief Minister Pinarayi, Local Self-Government Minister M B Rajesh and Electricity Minister K Krishnan Kutty were invited to the inauguration and commissioning of various projects by central government agencies. All of them boycotted the event.

Rajesh said it was an insult to Kerala that the public works minister had not been invited.

Chandrasekhar, however, said the CPM was trying to trigger a controversy ahead of the Kerala Assembly elections.

He added that protocol did not mandate inviting the CM's son-in-law, Riyas, or any other family member.

Meanwhile, Chandrasekhar was addressed only as a former Union minister of state at the inaugural programme.

The developments come close on the heels of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleging a BJP–CPM nexus in Kerala.

Farooq Abdullah, J&K deputy CM escape unhurt after gunman attack

JAMMU, PTI: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary had a narrow escape in an attack by a gunman at a marriage function here on Wednesday night, officials said.

The incident took place when Abdullah along with the deputy chief minister and chief minister's advisor Nasir Aslam Wani were leaving the venue at posh Greater Kailash area in the outskirts of the city, the officials said.

The accused, identified as Kamal Singh Jamwal, a resident of Purani Mandi, was overpowered by two officers of security wing of J&K Police -- an inspector and a sub-inspector -- when he approached Abdullah from behind with a pistol and opened fire at him.

Deputy CM Choudhary described the incident as a "security lapse", while police said a detailed investigation is going on.

Farooq Abdullah

Jamwal, who is believed to be in his 70s, was found in an inebriated condition and managed to fire one shot before he was disarmed and grounded by the alert personnel, the officials said, adding no one was injured in the firing.

Expressing anguish over the attack, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said, "Allah is kind. My father had a very close shave."

In a post on X, he said the details are sketchy at the moment but what is known is that a man with a loaded pistol was able to get "within point blank range" and discharge a shot.

"It was only the close protection team that deflected the shot & ensured that the assassination attempt failed. There are more questions than answers at the moment. How someone was able to get this close to a Z+ NSG-protected former CM," the chief minister asked.

According to the officials, Farooq Abdullah and Choudhary had come to greet party leader BS Chouhan on the marriage of his son.

The deputy CM expressed concern over the incident and told reporters that you should ask the security and the police how such a major lapse happened.

IAF jawan acquitted after victim tells court she was 'molested in dreams'

LUCKNOW, DHNS: A district court in Kanpur acquitted an Indian Air Force (IAF) jawan in a case of alleged molestation after the "victim" — his sister-in-law — told the court that the accused had "molested" her in her dreams.

According to local reports, the victim, who had accompanied her sister to the latter's home, alleged that her brother-in-law had molested her while she was asleep. The accused denied the allegations and tried to settle the matter within the family, but the "victim" lodged a complaint with the police.

The accused, who had fled the spot after the filing of the police complaint, was later arrested by the police and he had to spend 19 days in jail before being granted bail and walking out.

The victim, however, retracted her statement in court, saying she had taken antibiotic medicines as she was unwell and was sleeping when she dreamt that her brother-in-law molested her. She said that she was confused when she filed the police complaint.

The accused's lawyer said the court acquitted the accused after a seven-year legal battle. There was no additional evidence in the matter, and hence the court acquitted him, said the lawyer.

Andhra govt borrowed Rs 3.2 L crore in just 2 yrs: Jagan

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Former Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said the CAG report has ratified what YSRCP has been consistently alleging about the financial indiscipline of the state government.

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy

He pointed out that the state has borrowed Rs 3.2 lakh crores in two years, while the borrowings during the entire five-year term of the previous government led by YSRCP chief Jagan stood at Rs 3.31 lakh crores.

Talking to reporters on Wednesday, he said there is no clarity on where this massive borrowing has gone as the 'Super Six promises' remain unimplemented and the state revenues have fallen, clearly indicating pilferage and rampant corruption with the ruling coalition taking a cut in everything from sand to land, mines and liquor. There is no other reason to explain why the revenues are falling, the fiscal deficit is mounting, and state borrowings are escalating, he said.

Jagan lambasted the coalition government for its "gross escapism" on key issues in the recently concluded 16-day Assembly session.

WEST ASIA CRISIS: 'I would like to appeal to people, let us only spread correct, verified info'

'No need to panic': PM Modi on LPG shortage

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM & CHENNAI, DHNS

Addressing the shortage of commercial LPG cylinders in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday contended that the West Asia conflict has affected the entire global energy supply chain, while asking people "not to panic and not to believe rumours" and trust in his government.

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister

"During Covid pandemic, 140 crore Indians showed the world how mature our nation is. I am confident that as a nation, we will navigate every situation successfully.

In his speech at a public meeting of the NDA in Tiruchirapalli, Modi said India, as a nation, will navigate every situation successfully because his government has always placed the interests of the citizens above everything.

"Even in these times, our approach will be the same. There is no need to panic or pay attention to rumours. I would like to appeal to the people to spread only correct and verified information," Modi said.

The PM's remarks came as panic spread across the country over the availability of domestic LPG cylinders after hotels and eateries began limiting their menu due to the shortage of commercial LPG cylinders.

'Govt will ensure NRI's safety'

Addressing an NDA convention in Kerala's Kochi, the prime minister said that his government would ensure the protection and safety of all non-resident Indians (NRIs).

Modi recollected the evacuations his government had carried out from various crisis-hit countries, as well as those of Father Tom Uzhunnalil, who was abducted in Yemen, and Father Alexis Premkumar, who was abducted in Afghanistan.

"It is natural for all of you to be concerned about what's happening in the Gulf and West Asia. Whenever one of our countrymen is in trouble, the NDA government has used all its strength to ensure their safety. We never abandon our citizens during a crisis situation," he said.

A major chunk of NRIs in West Asian countries are Keralites.

Restaurants across Tamil Nadu shift to firewood and induction stoves

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

With the shortage of commercial LPG cylinders due to the Iran war showing no signs of easing anytime soon, several restaurants across Tamil Nadu began adopting different methods, depending on their scale and financial capacity, to stay afloat.

While small restaurants and tea shops in Chennai and elsewhere were slowly shifting to cooking with firewood, relatively medium-sized and big ones began switching to large-scale induction stoves.

Many food outlets and roadside eateries in Chennai—the lifeline of lakhs of officegoers, bachelors, and migrant workers—closed on Wednesday after failing to procure commercial LPG cylinders.

Sapthagiri Tiffin Centre, one of the most affordable and famous eateries in T Nagar, shut its operations on Wednesday, even as many outlets began limiting their menus to essential items and restricting the availability of some food items to specific hours of the day.

"I need at least 4 cylinders a day, but I was able to get only one. We are now planning to start cooking with firewood, as there is no other option," said Ramesh, who runs an eatery in Triplicane, told *DH*.

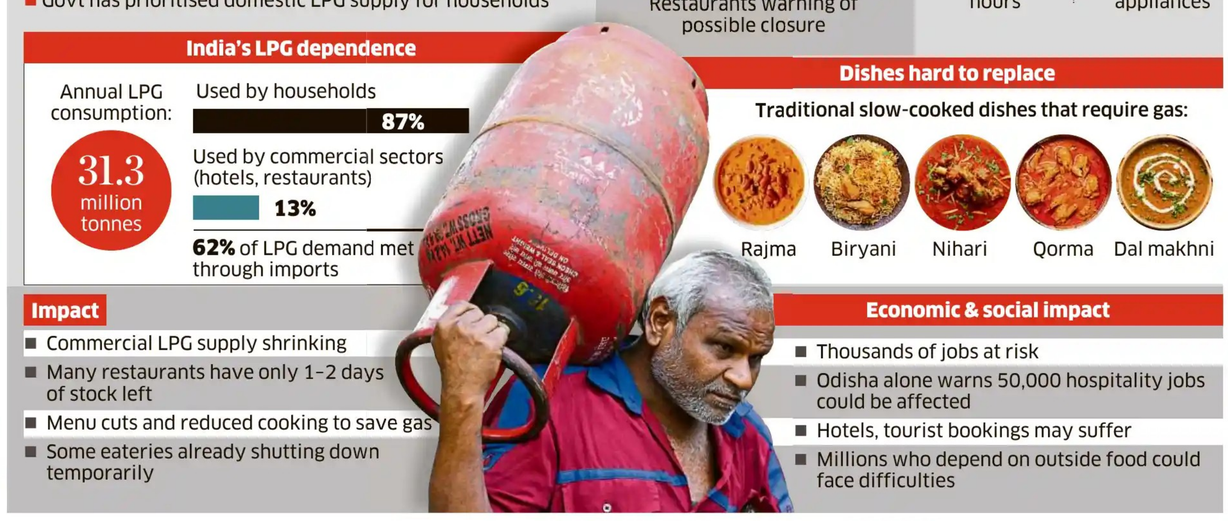
As a result of many shifting to firewood, the price of firewood has also shot up suddenly across Tamil Nadu. While one ton of firewood cost Rs 5,000 until Tuesday, it is now being procured for Rs 8,000 and above, said owners of eateries. The use of firewood for cooking has also led to environmental concerns, with activists urging those concerned and the government to take necessary measures.

"I have ordered induction stoves, and until they arrive, we will cook using firewood. I can't afford to close my eatery, as hundreds of students who stay in hostels come to eat," said the owner of a food outlet in Salem.

Despite making alternate arrangements, restaurant owners said they cannot run the business for long without a regular supply of LPG gas.

While delivery of domestic LPG cylinders continued without much trouble, long queues were reported at several fuel pumps across Chennai, with autos running on LPG finding it difficult to refuel.

"I travelled six km to refuel my autorickshaw, as two fuel stations near my home ran out of LPG since morning," said Vellapandi, an auto rickshaw driver.


WAR SHOCKS
Uncertain
FUTURE
Why restaurants are facing a gas crisis
West Asia conflict disrupting global fuel supply chains
Strait of Hormuz closure affecting LPG shipments
India imports 85–90% of LPG from West Asia via this route
Govt has prioritised domestic LPG supply for households
City-wise situation
Kolkata
30-40%
40% restaurants facing immediate disruption
30–40% can operate only for a few days
Mumbai
20%
Nearly hotels closed due to LPG shortage
Bengaluru, Chennai, Lucknow: Restaurants warning of possible closure
Emergency measures by restaurants
1 Low-fuel menus
2 Cutting LPG-heavy dishes (fried rice, appam, pooris, etc.)
3 Reducing gas-intensive cooking techniques
4 Limited tea/ coffee hours
5 Switching to electric cooking appliances
India's LPG dependence
Annual LPG consumption:
31.3 million tonnes
Used by households
87%
Used by commercial sectors (hotels, restaurants)
13%
62% of LPG demand met through imports
Dishes hard to replace
Traditional slow-cooked dishes that require gas:
Rajma
Biryani
Nihari
Qorma
Dal makhni
Impact
Commercial LPG supply shrinking
Many restaurants have only 1–2 days of stock left
Menu cuts and reduced cooking to save gas
Some eateries already shutting down temporarily
Economic & social impact
Thousands of jobs at risk
Odisha alone warns 50,000 hospitality jobs could be affected
Hotels, tourist bookings may suffer
Millions who depend on outside food could face difficulties

All nations have responsibility to condemn US-Israel attacks: Iran

NEW DELHI, DHNS: All nations "have a responsibility" to condemn Israel and the United States' acts of aggression against Iran in violation of the United Nations Charter, Tehran has told New Delhi, which has not yet denounced the attacks.

Tehran also conveyed to New Delhi that the US must be held accountable for the insecurity around the Persian Gulf's shipping lanes.

Abbas Araghchi

Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Tuesday, their third conversation since the Israeli-US missile strikes began on February 28.

Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, however, in a statement issued early on Wednesday, put out more details.

It detailed the crimes committed by Israel and the US against Iran over the past 11 days, including the missile attack on an elementary school for girls in Minab, and subsequent widespread attacks on civilian sites and public service centres in Iran.

"The foreign minister described the aggressive act by the US and the Israeli regime as a violation of the fundamental principles and rules of the United Nations Charter and international law, noting that all governments have a responsibility to condemn this military aggression and blatant law-breaking," it said in the statement.

Referring to Iran's approach to safeguarding shipping security in the Persian Gulf, Araghchi said the insecure situation and problems arising for shipping were the result of the aggressive and destabilising actions of the US, and the international community must hold the US accountable for this situation, it said.

Centre tells states to monitor LPG supply, prevent hoarding

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre has asked the states to monitor the supply of LPG in their respective jurisdictions and prevent any hoarding or black marketing of cylinders.

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan virtually chaired a meeting attended by chief secretaries, officials of the consumer affairs ministry, and DGPs, they said.

Mohan told the officials to monitor the supply of LPG cylinders and ensure that no hoarding or black marketing takes place to pump up the prices, the officials said.

The DGPs were directed to ensure that there is no breakdown in law and order during the sale and distribution of domestic LPG cylinders, while the chief secretaries were told to get regular reports on the evolving situation.

Mohan also told the officials to take steps to curb rumour-mongering on the purported fuel shortage in the country, they added.

28 Indian ships with 778 sailors stuck in Persian Gulf

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Wednesday said that as many as 28 Indian vessels with 778 seafarers onboard are stuck in the Persian Gulf amid conflict in West Asia.

Of these, 24 vessels are on the western part of the Strait of Hormuz with 677 seafarers, while 4 vessels with 101 persons are on the eastern side, Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, said in a media briefing.

Insisting that the government is monitoring all the vessels actively for their safety and security, he said the Shipping Ministry is in touch with various agencies to ensure safety and render medical assistance to them.

Regular interaction with industry and stakeholders is being undertaken to provide all assistance to the industry and seafarers.

Sinha further said that port operations across India remain stable. Major ports have implemented operational measures, including continuous monitoring of vessel movement in coordination with shipping lines and vessel agents, real-time assessment of developments in the region, and regular reporting of vessels and cargo status

He said the Director General of Shipping is also maintaining contact with ship owners, operators, and assemblies of the seafarers to provide necessary assistance. Ports have been directed to extend all necessary assistance to minimise hardships faced by exporters and ensure continuity of EXIM trade.

War fears & fuel anxiety cloud Kashmir's spring tourism hopes

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

Just as Kashmir prepares to welcome tourists for the spring bloom season, rising global tensions and fears of disruption in petroleum supplies have begun worrying the Valley's tourism and hospitality sector.

The escalating conflict involving the United States, Israel and Iran has triggered concerns about global fuel supply chains, with stakeholders in Kashmir fearing that any disruption in LPG or petrol availability could affect hotel and restaurant operations during the crucial tourism season.

The anxiety comes at a time when the Valley is still recovering from a major setback following the Pahalgam terror attack, which had significantly dented tourist arrivals last year.

Though tourism has shown gradual improvement since then, industry players say fresh global uncertainties could again slow the recovery.

The J&K government is preparing to kick-start the spring tourism season with a series of events aimed at attracting visitors.

The Tourism Department will also open the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden from March 16.

However, the emerging global situation has raised alarm within the hospitality industry, which depends heavily on commercial LPG for daily operations.

A restaurant owner in Srinagar said many eateries rely entirely on LPG cylinders. "Any disruption in supply will directly affect kitchens in restaurants and hotels," he said.

An LPG distributor associated with a leading gas company in Kashmir said recent guidelines suggest that domestic consumers may be prioritised if supply pressures arise. "We have been asked to submit details of commercial users like hotels and hospitals and their daily gas consumption," the distributor said on condition of anonymity.

Census 2027 to record transgender heads of families

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Census 2027 will collect data on the sex of the head of the household — male, female and transgender — the Ministry of Home Affairs informed the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

This was disclosed by Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai in a written answer to questions raised by DMK floor leader Tiruchi Siva.

"Information on housing condition, household particulars including the name and sex of the head of the household, amenities available and assets possessed by the household will be collected in this phase. Three categories of sex of the head of the household — male, female and transgender — will be recorded," the minister said.

Census 2027 will be conducted in two phases, and the questions for the first phase, which covers houselisting and the Housing Census, have been notified. Questions for the second phase, which is Population Enumeration, where information on each individual will be collected, will be notified in due course, he said.

I.N.D.I.A bloc to file impeachment notice against CEC soon

NEW DELHI, DHNS: I.N.D.I.A bloc is all set to submit notices to impeach Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha "anytime soon", sources said.

Around 120 MPs of Lok Sabha and nearly 60 lawmakers of Rajya Sabha have signed separate notices to be submitted to the Speaker and Upper House Chairman CP Radhakrishnan. As per law, a notice seeking to impeach a CEC, which follows the procedure for removal of a Supreme Court judge, should have the support of 100 MPs in Lok Sabha and 50 in Rajya Sabha, depending on where it is submitted.

A senior Opposition leader reasoned that they were submitting in both LS and RS to avoid allegations that they were skipping a House because they did not have numbers. The initial plan was to submit the notice only in LS but during discussions with leaders, it was decided to submit it in both Houses.

If the notice is accepted, the Speaker or the Chairman constitute a committee consisting of a Supreme Court judge, a High Court Chief Justice and an eminent jurist is formed to probe the charges against the CEC.

BUDGET SESSION

LS rejects resolution against Birla

Motion defeated by voice vote; Oppn protests over Shah's remark on Rahul

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and others during the voting in the Lok Sabha during the second part of Budget session, in New Delhi, Wednesday. PTI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday rejected the no-trust resolution moved by the Opposition against Speaker Om Birla by a voice vote amid vociferous protests over Union Home Minister Amit Shah's comments on Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi.

During his reply to the motion, which saw two-day-long discussions, Shah mounted a sharp attack on the Opposition. After a spirited defense of the Speaker, Shah turned his attention to Rahul's record of parliamentary engagement, terming it "poor".

Calling the resolution against Birla "unfortunate", Shah said that such a motion was being taken up for the first time after four decades. "Sadly, the LoP who initiated this motion did not speak during the motion," he said.

Protests broke out when Shah alleged that Rahul was out of the country when serious matters were in discussion in Parliament, and that the Opposition leader didn't respect the PM's chair.

"He hugged the PM by coming over to the treasury benches, and even blew a kiss," Shah said, leading to several Opposition members trooping to the Well of the House. They demanded an apology for Shah's certain remarks, which they claimed were "offensive".

Presiding chair Jagdambika Pal said that he would expunge any unparliamentary word in the speech.

Later, in a post on X, Congress' Jairam Ramesh said: "One of the home minister's favourite words uttered again today in the Lok Sabha has been expunged. It had previously been used and expunged on December 10, 2025."

Earlier, Rahul had said in the House that he was stopped from speaking on multiple occasions.

Defending the Speaker, Shah said that as per the House's tradition, its proceedings are conducted on the basis of mutual trust, and the Speaker is an objective custodian, representing both sides.

"This is a regrettable event for both parliamentary politics and the House. Because the Speaker does not belong to any party, the Speaker belongs to the House. The House will be run by its rules, not by the rules of a party," Shah said.

Birla's tenure, Shah said, the productivity increased to 91% in the 17th Lok Sabha.

Oppn got more time to speak in LS: Govt data

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Opposition parties received more speaking time proportionally in the 17th Lok Sabha, and time allocated to them accounted for approximately 46% of the total discussion time in the House, show data with the government that DH accessed.

Some of this data was cited by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in his speech in the Lok Sabha. In comparison, the NDA's time accounted for approximately 38%. Of this, the BJP's time accounted for only 26.53%.

"The Congress had 52 members in the 17th Lok Sabha and 12% of the speaking time, which translates to 0.231% of the total time per member. The BJP had 302 members and 26.53% of the speaking time, or 0.088% per member. Congress members spoke approximately 1.63 times more per person," said government sources.

The NDA had a majority of approximately 65% in the 17th Lok Sabha. "Despite this, the Presiding Chair allocated approximately 61.05% of the total discussion time to the Opposition," said the sources.

The House represents whole country not one party: Rahul

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday told the Lok Sabha that he was stopped from speaking on multiple occasions, including in a historic first when he was not allowed to make his speech during the first leg of the Budget Session.

His remarks came as BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad said during the debate on a resolution seeking the removal of Om Birla as LS Speaker that the Leader of the Opposition had made remarks against the country while abroad and that his party should make him aware of the rules and conventions of Parliament.

Rahul Gandhi

Responding to him, Rahul said the discussion in the LS was about the democratic process and the role of the Speaker, but his name was raised multiple times while "things were said" about him repeatedly. He said that for the first time in parliamentary history, a Leader of the Opposition was not allowed to make his speech.

"This House is the expression of the people of India. This House does not represent one party. This House represents the whole country. Every time we get up to speak, we are stopped," he said.

"Just a few days ago, for the first time in Indian history, a Leader of the Opposition was not allowed to speak... Last time, I raised the issue of the PM being compromised, the issue of General MM Naravane, and the Epstein and Adani issues. I was silenced," he said, referring to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address.

Prasad claimed that the resolution for the removal of Birla as Speaker "should not be weaponised" to "satisfy the ego" of a leader.

Govt to restrict use of AI-controlled toys: Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday said his ministry will take action in consultation with the Ministries of Home Affairs and Consumer Affairs against the use of AI-controlled toys.

"AI-controlled toys are a serious threat to the safety of children. All necessary steps are being taken in consultation with the Consumer Affairs and Home Ministries. Whenever we receive reports of any incidents, immediate action is taken," Vaishnaw said in the Lok Sabha.

Govt tied Birla's hands, forced to act on BJP's wishes: Cong MP

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Opposition put Speaker Om Birla under fire for the second consecutive day on Wednesday during the discussion of a resolution seeking his removal as Lok Sabha Speaker, with senior Congress MP KC Venugopal claiming that his hands were tied by the Modi government and forced to act as per the ruling BJP's wishes.

Venugopal said it raises "serious concerns" when the Chair "stops being impartial and acts as the chief" of the ruling party, as he criticised Birla for making a claim against the women MPs that he had "concrete information" about some Congress MPs planning to carry out an "unexpected act" by approaching the spot where Prime Minister Narendra Modi sits.

Venugopal called Birla's remarks "very defamatory" and a "government-created escape route" to justify Modi's absence from Parliament during the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President last month.

"Personally, Om Birla may be ok. But his hands are tied. Every time something happens, the Home Minister goes into his room," Venugopal claimed while saying that ruling BJP MPs are praising Jawaharlal Nehru during the debate.

SC orders expert panel to finalise NCERT legal studies course

Court asks Centre to disassociate from authors, identify social media 'mischief-mongers'

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Centre to constitute a committee of domain experts within a week to finalise the curriculum related to legal studies in NCERT textbooks.

The top court said it was worried by NCERT's stand that the controversial chapter containing the "offending" content on corruption in the judiciary in the Class 8 social science book had been "rewritten" and that the revised chapter would be incorporated into textbooks for the 2026–27 academic year.

Taking up the suo motu matter, a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi directed the Centre and all states to forthwith disassociate Professor Michel Danino, Suparna Diwakar and Alok Prasanna Kumar, who were involved in drafting the offending chapter, from any project and not assign them any responsibility that involves public funds.

The bench said Danino, Diwakar and Kumar do not have adequate knowledge of the judiciary, and there was no reason why such persons should be associated in any manner with preparing the curriculum or finalising textbooks for the next generation.

The bench, however, clarified that the order would be subject to them approaching the court for modification with an explanation. The bench directed that the Centre must revisit the composition of the National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee (NSTC), especially those who reviewed the offending chapter.

During the hearing, the bench also strongly criticised the irresponsible content circulating in the media and directed the Centre to identify the websites involved and the persons operating them. The court asked the Centre to furnish complete details before it so that appropriate action could be taken.

The bench observed that the law must take its course against "mischief-mongers", and the court would not spare those responsible even if they were "hiding outside the country".

The court also noted that the NCERT Director has filed an affidavit tendering an unconditional and unqualified apology.

However, referring to NCERT's affidavit, the bench pointed out that a paragraph said the chapter had been rewritten in the textbook.

The bench asked where the rewritten chapter was and who had prepared it. The NCERT director, who was present in the courtroom, said they had relied on experts, faculty members.

108 Maoists with Rs 3.95-cr bounty surrender in Ch'garh

JAGDALPUR (CHHATTISGARH), PTI: In a remarkable success of the government's fight against Left Wing Extremism, 108 Maoists carrying a collective reward of Rs 3.95 crore surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district on Wednesday, officials said.

Besides a huge stock of weapons, Rs 3.61 crore in cash and one kg of gold valued at about Rs 1.64 crore were recovered from Maoist dumps, the highest seizure of cash and valuables from a single location in the history of anti-Naxal operations in the country, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range, Sundarraj Pattilingam told PTI.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has set a deadline of March 31, 2026, for the eradication of Naxalism from the country.

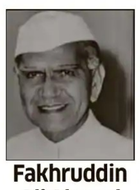
Among the surrendered Naxalites, six were divisional committee members carrying a reward of Rs 8 lakh each, as per officials.

The cadres, belonging to the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC) of Maoists, turned themselves in at Jagdalpur, the Bastar district headquarters, Pattilingam said. DKSZC formation of outlawed CPI (Maoists) orchestrated several deadly attacks in south Bastar in the past.

Information provided by the surrendered cadres helped security forces achieve significant successes, including the recovery of weapons, cash .

Assam govt drops ex-president's name from medical college

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS


Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed

The BJP-led Assam government on Tuesday decided to remove the name of former President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed from a medical college in minority-dominated Barpeta district, a move that invited condemnation from the Opposition Congress and AIUDF ahead of next month's Assembly elections.

The decision was taken in a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday evening, following which Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said it was decided to remove a "confusion" over the names of the medical colleges.

"If we look at the names of our medical colleges, all others have been named after their locations. We see that in the medical colleges in Guwahati, Dhubri, Silchar, Bongaigaon, Biswanath and Sonitpur. Somehow, the Barpeta one was named as Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College and Hospital, which does not align with the naming pattern of other medical colleges," he said.

"As Barpeta Medical College has been named differently, many people often ask whether it is a private college," Sarma said, adding that another institution would be named after Ali Ahmed, the first and only President from Assam.

Ali Ahmed had served as the President from 1974 to 1977. He had also promulgated the Emergency in August 1975, when Indira Gandhi was the prime minister.

Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College was set up in 2011, and it began offering undergraduate courses in 2012, when Congress was in power in Assam. The college started offering post-graduate courses in 2019, three years after the BJP formed their first state government with Sarbananda Sonowal as the CM.

ED searches 19 locations in Rs 590-crore IDFC First Bank 'fraud' case

CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI, PTI: The Enforcement Directorate registered a money laundering case and conducted searches at multiple locations on Wednesday in connection with alleged embezzlement of Rs 590 crore from the Haryana government's accounts maintained with IDFC First Bank in Chandigarh, official sources said.

The federal probe agency conducted searches at 19 premises in Chandigarh, Gurugram in Haryana and Mohali in Punjab against various business entities which helped the accused persons get accommodation (hawala) entries to conceal the money trail and proceeds of crime, they said.

The raids were undertaken after ED booked a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) taking cognisance of a Haryana State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (SV & ACB) FIR.

According to the IDFC First Bank, the alleged Rs 590-crore fraud was committed by its employees and others in accounts held by the Haryana government with the private sector lender. The SV & ACB has arrested four persons in the case, of which two are ex-IDFC First Bank employees and the rest are private persons who own a partnership firm.

As per the police and ED allegations, Haryana government funds were supposed to be deposited by various departments of the state in the bank but instead of being deposited in the FDs, these were allegedly diverted by the accused for their personal purpose, the sources said.

The ED conducted searches on various business entities which have given accommodation (hawala) entries to the main accused persons, ex-bank officials, certain beneficiaries of the alleged scam and real estate agents where the proceeds of crime have been dissipated, they said.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

DO YOU HAVE ANY THANKSGIVING LEFTOVERS?
I SURE DO!
I'VE GOT LEFTOVER TURKEY, STUFFING, CRANBERRY SAUCE, GREEN BEANS AND PUMPKIN PIE!
GREAT, I'LL TAKE IT
NO CAN DO...I BROUGHT THEM ALL IN TO EAT ON MY BREAK!

Hagar The Horrible

SORRY I'M LATE! I'VE BEEN EXTRA BUSY WITH SPRING CLEANING AND GARDENING WITHOUT YOUR HELP!
Visiting Hours 12 to 3
SO, WHAT'S THIS I HEAR ABOUT YOU PASSING UP A CHANCE FOR EARLY PAROLE?

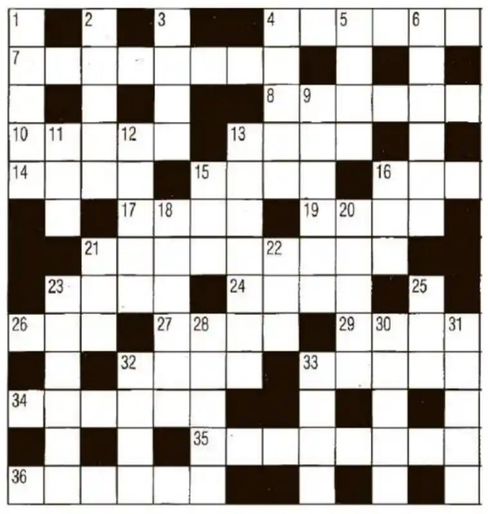
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

SNOOPY, I NEED YOUR HELP
I GAVE MY BLANKET TO EUDORA, AND I WANT YOU TO GET IT BACK FOR ME... I DON'T CARE HOW YOU DO IT!
HMMM...
HERE'S THE WORLD FAMOUS DISCO DANCER ABOUT TO CHARM HIS WAY INTO A CHICK'S HEART...

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12372



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 How to coach half the family? (6)
7 A drink with a mate? (5,3)
8 Wildly chants part of the refrain (6)
10 Nimble as a soldier taking the drink round (5)
13 One of the underpinnings of the stage? (4)
14 Sort of skirt for the car? (4)
15 Would you credit a sailor catching one in a boat? (4)
16 Under a cloud, perhaps, we finish last (3)
17 Frighten the ducks on the quiet? (4)
19 Where seafarers have to travel? (4)
21 Sportively go the whole ninety minutes? (9)
23 He's back from Iceland (4)
24 She remains a bit of a lady (4)
26 Cook a lot of little fish (3)
27 Something to eat at the seaside, perhaps (4)
29 Read a letter when you're able (4)
32 The present is contained in a metal box (4)
33 She's out for the morning – what a pity! (5)
34 Reckon random gunfire lacks point or direction (6)
35 In sport, a number of games can be nervous! (8)
36 To leap around in a game (6)

DOWN
1 Give the sheep a bit of a scare as you run away (5)
2 Participate sedentarily (3,2)
3 Old Jack, seen as a rogue at Mile End (4)
4 Port, as provided in a new bar (5)
5 Hiss at a pensioner on the box (4)
6 There's room for it where things are all boxed up (6)
9 Extra swell for everybody? (2,4)
11 Little Rock (3)
12 The kind of stockings I sell? (5)
13 For the record, a side view (7)
15 Copy a letter out, being backward (3)
16 Kings take this route in London (3)
18 One who gets a kick out of computers? (6)
20 There's a hush when Alf turns up with the news (5)
21 Sort of wood from Plymouth? (3)
22 Speak American at the Norwegian centre? (3)
23 Over the turbulent river, note, you'll get somewhere (6)
25 Sticky situation (3)
28 Where to fight, with heavy heart, to earn some change? (5)
30 Like a shed, is able to accommodate some bikes (5)
31 Topical recent letters (5)
32 Victor's first name? (4)
33 A measure of good taste, perhaps (4)

ACROSS
4 Noisy confused situation (6)
7 Brown sugar (8)
8 Guides (6)
10 Heavenly messenger (5)
13 Watch face (4)
14 Lacking fat (4)
15 Abode of Satan (4)
16 Vegetable (3)
17 Peruse writing (4)
19 Epochs (4)
21 Active at night (9)
23 Prison room (4)
24 Glasgow, for example (4)
26 Uncooked (3)
27 Elderly (4)
29 Norse god (4)
32 Prejudice (4)
33 Trap (5)
34 Freshwater mammals (6)
35 Sweat (8)
36 Population count (6)

DOWN
1 Perfect (5)
2 Greek letter (5)
3 Spoken, verbal (4)
4 Herb (5)
5 Single combat (4)
6 Concurs (6)
9 Above average ability (6)
11 Born (3)
12 Enlist (5)
13 Infers (7)
15 Head covering (3)
16 Close friend (3)
18 Chocolate finger cake (6)
20 Synthetic fibre (5)
21 Novel (3)
22 To free (3)
23 Cows, bulls, etc. (6)
25 Tree (3)
28 Pants (5)
30 Boy's name (5)
31 Not ever (5)
32 Flying insects (4)
33 Cummerbund (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12371

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, S-and-RA 7, Pu-L-lover 8, Cafe 10, Pro-LIX 11, Obtain 14, Met 16, B-Ann-S 17, R-ear 19, Paper 21, Water 22, Heron 23, Carp 26, Piles 28, Nag 29, Hearts 30, F-in-E-ly 31, Op.-US 32, Superior 33, Themes.
DOWN: 1, Sup-p-er 2, Dealer 3, Apex 4, Blubber 5, A-via-N 6, Irons 8, Coma 9, F-it 12, Tar 13, Incur(able) 15, Baton 18, Effie 19, Pa-r 20, Pen 21, We-stern 22, Her 23, Canute 24, Ages 25, P-aye-ES 26, Phase 27, L-amps 28, Nip 30, For-t.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Arabic 7, Oriental 8, Topi 10, Beaten 11, Morose 14, Rep 16, Valet 17, Gene 19, Bogey 21, Tutor 22, Fated 23, Pest 26, Sneer 28, Tad 29, Advent 30, Karate 31, Exam 32, Buckshee 33, Needle.
DOWN: 1, Airbag 2, Bootee 3, Coin 4, Recover 5, Stool 6, Sleet 8, Tarn 9, Pep 12, Ray 13, Sends 15, Totem 18, Eland 19, But 20, God 21, Tarnish 22, Fee 23, Parade 24, Edam 25, Thence 26, Samba 27, Evict 28, Tax 30, Keen.

◆SU-DO-KU-6852◆

6		8	4					
	3				8	2		
	7		1			4		
	6					1		
7			5	1	9			3
		5					2	
		3			7		4	
		6	9				8	
					3	5		1

medium

SOLUTION TO 6851

6	2	9	4	7	8	1	3	5
4	8	7	3	1	5	9	2	6
3	1	5	2	9	6	8	4	7
8	4	1	5	3	2	6	7	9
9	6	2	1	4	7	3	5	8
5	7	3	6	8	9	4	1	2
2	5	4	8	6	1	7	9	3
7	3	8	9	5	4	2	6	1
1	9	6	7	2	3	5	8	4

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							Triple Word Score	RACK 1
S1	T1	R1	A1	E1	O1	T1		
								RACK 2
A1	A1	E1	C3	E1	P3	Q10		
							5th Letter Triple	RACK 3
I1	E1	D2	R1	S1	D2	E1		
								RACK 4
A1	R1	T1	T1	N1	E1	E1	Double Word Score	

PAR SCORE 135-145
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

C3	R1	E1	A1	M3	Y4		RACK 1	= 13
P3	O1	P3	L1	I1	N1		RACK 2	= 20
Q10	U1	A1	L1	I1	A1		RACK 3	= 35
P3	O1	O1	D2	L1	E1	S1	RACK 4	= 80
							JUDD'S TOTAL	148

PAR SCORE 95-105

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

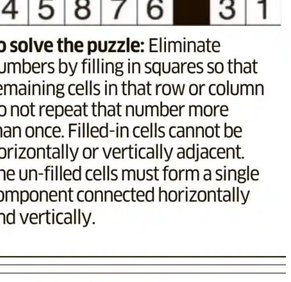
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HNOMT

GUDEN

TETHRO

RDYLAH


We have you on video robbing the bank. Then you were found with these in your trunk.
I had a mask on to keep the dirt out of my mouth as I was planting shrubs all day.
I'll remind you that you're under oath.
WHEN THE THIEF LIED IN COURT ABOUT BURYING THE MONEY, HE DIDN'T TELL THE ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GULCH GAUZE FLOPPY CASHEW
Answer: Compared to other birds, when it comes to resting, the flamingo — HAS A LEG UP

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HITORI-3306

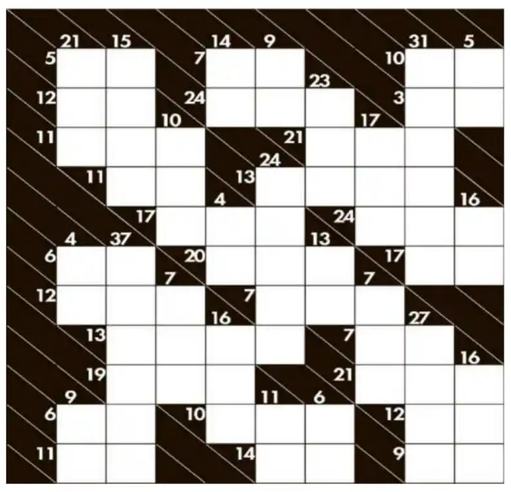
6	5	1	6	4	4	2	6
6	6	8	1	6	7	4	2
2	4	3	6	1	8	7	4
6	2	6	4	3	6	5	6
1	6	4	5	8	2	3	6
4	7	6	1	2	3	6	1
3	6	2	7	6	4	1	8
6	8	5	4	6	1	6	4

SOLUTION TO 3305

■	4	■	5	1	■	6	8
6	7	1	4	■	8	■	3
■	3	■	1	5	4	7	6
3	1	5	6	■	2	4	■
7	■	6	■	8	1	■	5
■	8	4	3	■	7	5	2
1	■	3	■	4	5	2	■
4	5	8	7	6	■	3	1

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3306



SOLUTION TO 3305

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3853

■	2	5		1				■
	■	4			7		■	
6	1	■	4		8	■		
5			1		9			
		2		■			7	
			3		■			4
4		■		9		■		2
9	■				6		■	7
■		7						6

SOLUTION TO 3852

9	4	1	2	6	3	8	5	7
2	8	5	1	7	4	6	3	9
7	6	3	9	8	5	4	2	1
3	1	2	4	9	6	7	8	5
8	9	4	5	1	7	3	6	2
6	5	7	8	3	2	9	1	4
1	7	9	6	2	8	5	4	3
4	2	6	3	5	9	1	7	8
5	3	8	7	4	1	2	9	6

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

IEA to release record 400 million barrels of emergency oil reserves

Move aims to stabilise energy markets as Iran disrupts oil flows

PARIS, AP/PTI

The International Energy Agency agreed on Wednesday to release the largest volume of emergency oil reserves in its history in a bid to counter the effects on energy markets of the war in West Asia.

The Paris-based organisation said it will make 400 million barrels of oil available from its members' emergency reserves. It is a larger stock than the 182.7 million barrels that were released in 2022 by the IEA's 32 member countries in response to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

"Without sufficient routes to market and with no more available storage, West Asian oil producers have started to reduce production," IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol said. "And we have seen further attacks and damage to energy and energy-related infrastructure. Refinery operations have also been disrupted, with major implications for jet fuel and diesel supplies in particular."

People attend a funeral ceremony for the Iranian military commanders, who were killed in US-Israeli airstrikes, in Tehran on Wednesday. REUTERS

IEA member countries currently hold over 1.2 billion barrels of public emergency oil stocks, with a further 600 million barrels of industry stocks held under government obligation. In response to US and Israeli strikes, Iran has attacked commercial ships across the Persian Gulf, escalating a campaign of squeezing the oil-rich region as global energy concerns mount. Iran has effectively stopped cargo traffic in the narrow Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of all oil is shipped from the Persian Gulf toward the Indian Ocean. It has also targeted oil fields and refineries in Gulf Arab nations, aiming to generate enough global economic pain to pressure the US and Israel to end their strikes.

Germany and Austria said on Wednesday they would release parts of their oil reserves following an IEA request for members to release the record 400 million barrels to help temper energy price spikes due to the Iran war. Japan also said it will release some of its reserves starting Monday.

RISING TENSIONS AND ECONOMIC CONCERNS

- The United States military said it destroyed as many as 16 Iranian mine-laying vessels after the Islamic Republic vowed to block the region's oil exports.
- Citigroup, Standard Chartered and other global banks have begun evacuating their Dubai offices, telling staff to work from home instead after Iran threatened Gulf banking interests linked to the US and Israel. Separately, HSBC has closed all branches in Qatar until further notice.
- Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, a close ally of US President Donald Trump, said on Wednesday that the US-Israeli attacks violate international law.
- The United Nations has warned of significant risks to global trade and development, including higher food prices and cost-of-living, if the Strait of Hormuz is closed amid the West Asia conflict.
- Qatar said it won't serve as a mediator for Iran as it remains under attack from Tehran.

War on Iran will end soon, says Trump

WASHINGTON, AFP/REUTERS: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday signalled that the war with Iran could end soon, while dismissing concerns about possible Iranian retaliatory attacks on US soil.

Trump said there was "practically nothing left to target" in Iran and suggested the conflict, which began on February 28, could conclude quickly.

"There is practically nothing left to target," Trump said in an interview with news outlet Axios. "Any time I want it to end, it will end." Speaking to reporters as he left the White House for a trip focused on the US economy, Trump said the situation in the Strait of Hormuz would stabilise quickly. "You're going to see great safety, and it's going to be very, very quickly," he said. Trump added that US forces had "taken out" most of Iran's mine-laying vessels.

New supreme leader injured, but safe: Officials

PARIS, AFP: Iran's new supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei, who has not spoken or been seen in public since his appointment at the weekend, is injured but "safe", officials said on Wednesday.

"I heard news that Mr Mojtaba Khamenei had been injured. I asked some friends who were in contact," the Iranian president's son, Yousef Pezeshkian, wrote in a post on his Telegram channel.

"They told me that, thank God, he is safe and sound," added Pezeshkian, who is a government adviser.

Khamenei was named Iran's supreme leader on Sunday to replace his father Ali, who was assassinated in an airstrike on February 28.

'Great partner': US says India helping stabilise global oil prices

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Trump administration has called India a "good actor" and a "great partner" of the United States while explaining why it had "temporarily permitted" the country to buy oil from Russia amid turmoil in the global energy market.

The White House said on Tuesday that India had been a good actor and had earlier stopped buying oil from Russia. That was why the US had decided to grant a 30-day waiver allowing the country to buy oil already shipped from Russia.

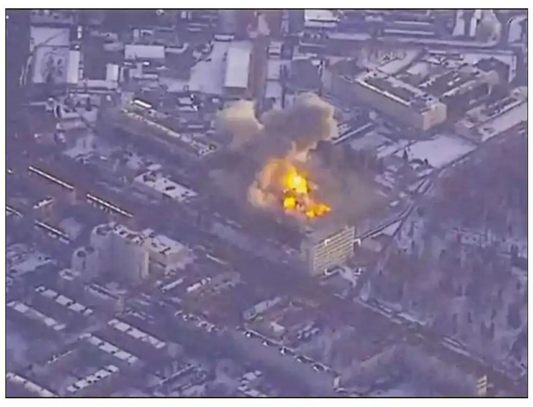
US envoy in New Delhi Sergio Gor also said that India had been "a great partner" of the US in maintaining price stability in the international oil market, adding that the country was currently buying oil from Russia as part of that effort. "India has been a great partner in maintaining stable oil prices around the world," Gor posted on X on Wednesday.

The US announced the 30-day waiver for India to allow it to buy oil from Russia last week, just a month after lifting the 25% tariff it had imposed on imports from the South Asian nation to dissuade it from purchasing oil from Russia.

The move came amid concerns over the widening conflict in West Asia following attacks launched by Israel and the US on Iran on February 28.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told a press conference on Tuesday: "So, as we work to appease this temporary gap in oil supply around the world because of the Iranians, we have temporarily permitted them (India) to accept that Russian oil. And this Russian oil was already at sea."

WORLD AT A GLANCE



Smoke rises amid explosions from a Ukrainian strike on a Russian missile plant in Bryansk on Tuesday. Moscow said on Wednesday that the damage was "extensive". REUTERS

$1 mn reward for arrest of Indian man wanted in murder case

▸ The FBI is now offering a reward of up to $1 million, significantly increasing it from the previous amount of $250,000, for information leading to the arrest of an Indian national wanted for allegedly killing his wife in 2015, PTI reports from New York.

Bhadreshkumar Chetanbhai Patel, 35, was last known to be in the Newark, New Jersey area. He is wanted for allegedly killing his wife, Palak Patel, by striking her multiple times with an object while they were both working at a doughnut shop in Hanover, Maryland, on April 12, 2015. Patel is on the FBI's list of "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives", and the federal agency announced on Tuesday that it is now offering a reward of up to $1 million for information leading to his arrest. Initially, the FBI had offered a $100,000 reward for information about Patel, later increasing the amount to $250,000.

Swiss bus fire kills six

▸ A bus fire in Switzerland that killed at least six people may have been triggered by a "disturbed" man who set himself alight after boarding the vehicle, AFP reports from Fribourg.

Cantonal public prosecutor Raphael Bourquin said a witness reported that a man of Swiss origin boarded the bus carrying bags and later poured a flammable substance over himself before setting himself on fire. "There is absolutely no evidence to suggest that this could be a terrorist act," Bourquin told a press conference, adding that the man is believed to be among those who died in the blaze. The fire broke out on Tuesday evening on a regional transport bus in Kerzers.

UK to remove hereditary peers

▸ Centuries of British political tradition will end within weeks after Parliament voted to remove hereditary aristocrats from the unelected House of Lords, AP/PTI reports from London.

On Tuesday night members of the upper chamber dropped objections to legislation passed by the House of Commons ousting dozens of dukes, earls and viscounts who inherited seats in Parliament along with their aristocratic titles. Government minister Nick Thomas-Symonds said the change put an end to "an archaic and undemocratic principle." "Our parliament should always be a place where talents are recognised and merit counts," he said. "It should never be a gallery of old boys' networks, nor a place where titles, many of which were handed out centuries ago, hold power over the will of the people."

South Africa deploys troops to tackle organised crime

Ramaphosa orders soldiers to assist police amid rising crime rates

JOHANNESBURG, AP/PTI

Soldiers were deployed on the streets of South Africa's biggest city on Wednesday after the president announced plans to use the army in several provinces in Africa's leading economy to help police fight gang violence and illegal mining.

Soldiers were seen in the Johannesburg suburb of Riverlea in the first major deployment since President Cyril Ramaphosa announced in his annual speech to the nation last month that he would use the army against organised crime, which he called the greatest threat to democracy and the country's economic development.

South African soldiers patrol a street in Riverlea, outside Johannesburg, on Wednesday. REUTERS

An Associated Press reporter saw a convoy of more than a dozen military vehicles move through the suburb of Riverlea, with soldiers jumping out of the vehicles to enter several apartment blocks. Riverlea is one area of Johannesburg affected by both gang-related violence and illegal mining.

South Africa's police and the Department of Defence, which oversees the military, did not immediately provide details on the deployment.

The authorities had previously said the military deployment in different parts of the country would start on March 1, but it was delayed while soldiers were given training in law enforcement protocols. The army will operate under police command during the deployment.

Ramaphosa said in a notice to the Speaker of Parliament that 550 soldiers would be involved in an initial deployment in the Gauteng province, which includes Johannesburg, to help combat crime and preserve law and order.

Nepal's RSP gets most votes under proportional system

KATHMANDU, PTI

The counting of votes under the proportional representation category in Nepal concluded on Wednesday, with the Rastriya Swatantra Party receiving the highest number of votes, according to the Election Commission.

Nepal's House of Representatives has a total of 275 seats. While 165 members are elected through the First Past The Post or direct voting system, 110 members are elected through proportional representation. "The vote counting has concluded, but the final results are yet to be published since data entry is still taking place," an Election Commission official said.

According to the latest updates, a total of 10,785,876 votes were counted. The Rastriya Swatantra Party received 5,157,130 votes, followed by the Nepali Congress, which secured 1,755,872 votes.

Man held for driving van into White House barrier

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI: A man was taken into custody on Wednesday after driving his van into a security barrier outside the White House, authorities said.

The Secret Service said the man crashed into the temporary security barrier just before 6:30 am.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORK

NOTICE FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Notification No: EOI/C-D&D/02/2025-26 Dated: 28.02.2026. Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), Chittaranjan is interested in developing sources for the following item through Transfer of Technology from CDAC. **SL. No.:[01]. Name of the item:** Development of Complete Propulsion System Comprising of Traction Converter, Auxiliary Converter and Train Communication Network (TCN) Based Vehicle Control Unit (VCU) for Three Phase Electric Locomotives. **As per: (a) Specification No.** RDSO/2008/EL/SPEC/0071, Rev 006 issued December 2023. **(b) STR No.** C-D&D/T/01/STR, C-D&D/T/02/STR and C-D&D/T/04/STR. The details available at CLW website: **http://www.clw.indianrailways.gov.in/Tender_cpp.jsp?lang=0&id=0,299.** Interested firm may also contact **Dy. CEE/D&D-I/CLW** through **dyceedd@clw.railnet.gov.in.** Last date for submission of interest is **31/03/2026, 23:59 Hrs** **Dy. Chief Electrical Engineering/D&D-I**
PR5-309 **CLW/Chittaranjan**
visit us on:www.facebook.com/clwrailways

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela (Distt. - Saran), Bihar 841221

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)

Dy CME/WFPS invites Expression Of Interest (EOI) for **"Maintenance of the Cold Wheel Line of WFPS at RWP Bela.** EOI Notice /documents may be seen or downloaded of the website link shown below **https://rwp.indianrailways.gov.in/ > Tender Information > Expression of Interest. Link:- https://rwp.indianrailways.gov.in/uploads/File/CommercialSites/RWP/EOI%20Merged.pdf** last date of submission of EOI is up to **12:00 hrs on 15/04/2026** **Dy CME / WFPS**
RWP/CPRO/Advt/2025-26/119

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/173/2026
Dated : 03-03-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Request for Proposal (RFP) for Appointment of Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for various construction site / Section (Non-EPC) in the jurisdiction of various Deputy Chief Engineer in Hubballi area. **(Tender Ref. No. PSSA-CN-UBL)**	**Rs. 19,90,14,858.38**

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 02-06-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/982/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ELECTRICAL WORK

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works: **Tender No.:** SUR/TD/T/2025/23R1. **Name of work:** Electrical TRD portion of work in connection with provision of one long-haul loop line in each direction at Malthan station in Daund-Solapur section of Solapur Division, (Re-invitation). **Estimated cost:** ₹ 1,22,40,703.62. **Bid Security:** ₹ 2,11,200/-, **Completion period:** 12 months. **Validity of offer:** 60 Days. **Date & time of tender closing on website:** 07.04.2026 at 15.00 hours. EXP-10

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES
MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (DME), MEGHALAYA
GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
PASTEUR HILLS, SHILLONG
Email ID: pasteurinstituteshil@gmail.com Tel No. 0364-2591510 / 94851 06663
No.DHSME&R/SMC/H.Res/148/2025-26/1144 Dtd: Shillong, the 11th March, 2026

NOTICE

The office of the Director of Health Services Medical Education & Research (DME) invites applications from eligible In-Service Doctors for the post of **Assistant Professors, Senior Resident** and **Tutor / Demonstrator** in various disciplines at Shillong Medical College.

Interested and eligible candidates are requested to visit the following website for detailed information:

https://www.meghealth.gov.in

Date and time of Interview will be intimidated accordingly.

Sd/-
Director of Health Services
Medical Education & Research (DME),
Pasteur Hills, Meghalaya, Shillong

MIPR No. : 3018
Dated : 11-03-2026

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM No. 54/2025

Kindly refer this office advertised tender no. 8125WCRTP-07 opening date on 10/03/2026 published in advertised tender notice no EPS/122/2025. The amendment made is as under: **Tender No. & short Description** : 8125WCRTP-07 Description-Manufacture and supply of 10125 mm Curved Switches, **Tender Opening Date : From:** 10/03/2026, **To :** 23/03/2026, **List of Fittings :**NIL LIST OF FITTINGS Latest terms & condition and full information is available on website https://www.ireps.gov.in.

Sd./-
for Principal Chief Material Manager
West Central Railway, Jabalpur

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/174/2026
Dated : 04-03-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Bagalkot (BGK) - Kudachi (KUD) New BG Line Project : 1. Construction of New RUB Br. No: 103A by cut and cover Method and diverting LC-01 and LC-02 to new RUB between Khajjidoni (KJDI) and Lokapur (LAPR) Stations. 2. Construction of Balance Super structure of ROB Bridge No. 107 at Ch:37637m of span 3x36.00m Composite steel girder + 14x24m PSC Girder + 1x29.0m PSC Girder, approach Road & other miscellaneous works for approach portion at Lokapur (LAPR) Station. **(Tender Ref. No. BGK-KUD-50)**	**Rs. 35,81,87,604/-**

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 27-03-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/984/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No.DGM-3/BSWML/TEND/24/2025-26 Date:11.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites the tender from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The Bidder shall submit the bid through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Other details may be seen in the bid document.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount put to tender Rs.in lakhs (Excluding GST)	EMD (in Rupees)	Stipulated Period of Contract
1	Bio-Enzyme based Odour Suppression and Site Improvement Works in and around 5 processing plants in Yeshwanthapura Constituency, including allied infrastructure and operational support works.	7205.00	72,05,000.00	12 Months

Calendar of Events : (1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries**: 20.03.2026 upto 15.00 Hrs.** in KPP Portal (2) Pre bid meeting: **23.03.2026 at 15.00 Hrs** at the office of CE & CGM-2 (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore (3) Last date for submission of the bids: **06.04.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs** (4) Date of opening of Technical bids on**: 07.04.2026 at 16.30 Hrs** (5) Date of opening of Financial bids will be notified to technically qualified bidders.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML

DIPR/CP/6193/SSC/2025-26

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
Lift & Escalator Work

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, General, Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works: **Tender No.:** SUR/L/T/2025/29. **Name of work:** Upkeepment, manning, operation of Assets such as Escalators/Elevators (Lift) located at 3 Railway Station premises for the period of 2 years. **Estimated cost:** ₹ 1,01,73,404.10/-. **Bid Security:** ₹ 2,00,900/-, **Completion period:** 24 months. **Validity of offer:** 60 Days. **Date & time of tender closing on website:** 02.04.2026 at 15.00 hours. Bid Security cost shall be paid through e-payment on **www.ireps.gov.in** website. EXP-11

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Chennai Division (Mechanical Branch)
E-Tender Notice No: M/M/W271/EPPFS CAI WORK-dt.10.03.2026.

Divisional Railway Manager/Mechanical Branch/Chennai Division, Chennai-600 003 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE tenders for the following work as per tender notice given in the e- tender Portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer(s) /contractor(s) intending to apply for e- tender for Mechanical works in Chennai division, need to get enrolled in the e tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

Description: Outsourcing of "Supply and installation of metallic (brass)Y strainer (3/4"), NRV-1/4" (SS) and Shifting of the Pressurizer unit (cylinder) of EPPES and PFS fitted in LHB coaches at BBQ, GSN & TBM coaching depots for a period of one year.

Location	Advertised tender Value in Rs	Earnest Money Deposit in Rs	Similar Nature of Work	Period of completion in months
Chennai	5994423.60/-	119900.00	Applicable	12-Months

Tender closing date and time: 01.04.2026@ 16:00 hrs. Details of value of tender, EMD are given in e-portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** For details bid submission please refer to web portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical)
Chennai Division, Southern Railway Chennai-600 003

APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL CONSULTANT FOR DESIGN ENGINEERING WORKS

Tender Notice No.: CON/2026/MAR/01, **Dated:** 03-03-2026. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work. **Tender No.:** CE-CON-DESIGN-GC-2026-01; **Name of Work:** Request for Proposal (RFP) for Appointment of General Consultant (GC) for Design Engineering Works of General Manager, N.F. Railway (Construction), Maligaon. **Approx. Value :** ₹15,17,27,524.92/-; Date & time of **closing** of tender at **14:30** hrs. and **opening** of tender at **15:30** hrs. on **10-04-2026**. For complete information and tender document of e-Tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

CE/Con/Design, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organization
Serving Customers With A Smile

LPG shortage: Quick service restaurant chains face closure risk

Commercial LPG cylinder prices more than double to Rs 4,000

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The LPG supply disruption due to the ongoing West Asia conflict between the US-Israel and Iran has exposed a hidden operational risk in India's food service sector. While independent restaurants are facing immediate closure risks, the large chains are facing margin pressures due to rise in LPG cylinder prices.

The severity of impact hinges on the duration of geopolitical conflicts and shipping route disruptions, especially through strategic choke points. As a result, companies may need to explore alternative fuels and supply chain adjustments to sustain operations amid ongoing uncertainties, according to experts tracking the sector.

Restaurants are more vulnerable than households because they rely almost entirely on 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders for high-volume cooking equipment such as ovens, fryers, grills, and high-speed cooking lines.

Large quick service restaurant (QSR) chains like Domino's, McDonald's, Burger King, and KFC are comparatively better positioned due to centralised procurement and backup fuel arrangements but are not immune to supply constraints, said JM Financial in a research note.

It said 60-65% of cooking at major QSRs depends on LPG, with a buffer of one-two weeks of supply. If shortages extend beyond this, operations could be hampered significantly.

A five-day LPG supply disruption could reduce revenue per store by approximately 6%, with EBITDA margins declining sharply by 14–20% versus normal levels.

The impact varies across chains, with smaller outlets shutting immediately and larger chains experiencing capacity constraints. Cost pressures from rising LPG prices may force QSRs to increase menu or delivery prices, further affecting margins.

Sachin Jain, founder of The Benne Mane, a South Indian restaurant in Bengaluru, said that gas distributors have nearly doubled the price in the past few days. "We are now having to buy cylinders for around Rs 3,500–Rs 4,000 each, and distributors are saying the price may increase further," he said.

Shorab Choudhary, Founder and Director of Khan Saheb Foods Pvt. Ltd., a popular fast-food chain in Bengaluru, said, "This situation is unprecedented for us. Our gas vendors, who have been supplying us reliably for the past 10 years, have informed us that they currently have no stock available. We completely ran out of gas on Tuesday and had to urgently source cylinders from alternative vendors at almost double the usual price."

Typically, commercial gas cylinders cost around Rs 1,800 – Rs 1,900 per cylinder, but yesterday the firm purchased them at Rs 3,500 per cylinder. Even at this price, there is no guarantee that suppliers will be able to provide consistent stock in the coming days, he said.

Niloy Kar, Partner, Encuisine Foods & Franchisee Owner, The Studs Sports Bar and Mandarin restaurant in Bengaluru, said the ongoing shortage of commercial LPG cylinders has certainly created operational pressure for restaurants across Bengaluru.

"To manage the situation, we have temporarily streamlined our menu to focus on dishes that can be efficiently prepared using ovens and alternative cooking methods. At the same time, we are increasing the use of electric induction equipment wherever possible to support core kitchen operations," he said.

His effort is to ensure that around 70–80% of the menu continues to remain available to guests.

Bansi Kotecha, Founder, Kytchens, a leading Kitchen-as-a-Service Platform based in Mumbai, said, "The LPG supply disruption is creating real operational uncertainty for many restaurants, especially smaller operators who rely heavily on commercial cylinders. Across the industry, kitchens are adapting by simplifying menus, optimising prep cycles, and increasing the use of electric equipment like induction ranges or griddles where possible."

Debaditya Chaudhury, Managing Director of Chowman, Oudh 1590, Chapter 2, and Chaudhury and Company, said the situation appears to be worsening in other metro cities, even if not as significantly in Kolkata yet. "Like many others across pan-India markets, we too are beginning to feel the pressure of inconsistent commercial gas supply. If the situation escalates further, we may have to consider temporary measures such as restricting menus to manage kitchen operations efficiently."

To manage the situation responsibly, the chain has temporarily restricted operations and is currently focusing on serving dine-in guests and Chowman app orders from our highest-selling outlets in Bengaluru.

For quick commerce, the real damage is upstream. "India's cloud kitchen market, valued at $1.2 billion in 2025 and projected to reach $3.7 billion by 2034 at a 12.28% CAGR, runs almost entirely on LPG. These kitchens were already margin-thin. A Rs 115 per cylinder hike on top of OMCs already incurring losses of Rs 39,000 crore in FY25 at below-cost pricing means the actual cost floor is far higher than what's being passed on today," Madhav Kasturia, CEO & Founder, Zippee said.

Investors' wealth tumbles by Rs 5.14 L cr as markets crash 2%

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,342.27 points

NEW DELHI, PTI

Investors' wealth eroded by Rs 5.14 lakh crore on Wednesday as stock markets fell after a day's breather due to a surge in global crude oil prices amid growing tensions in West Asia.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tumbled 1,342.27 points or 1.72% to settle at 76,863.71. During the day, it dropped 1,446.72 points or 1.84% to 76,759.26.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies faced an erosion of Rs 5,14,063.2 crore to Rs 4,41,90,196.39 crore ($4.81 trillion).

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 5.76% to $92.86 per barrel.

"Markets plunged sharply on Wednesday, losing over one and a half per cent and resuming their corrective phase amid weak global cues and heightened geopolitical tensions. Investor sentiment remained fragile as escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East continued to unsettle global markets and push volatility higher.

"Concerns over potential disruptions to crude oil supply, rising inflationary pressures and the possible impact on economic growth kept participants cautious," Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Additionally, continued foreign institutional investor selling and weakness in the rupee further dampened risk appetite, he added.

From the 30-Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra & Mahindra, Maruti, Bharti Airtel, Trent and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the major laggards.

NTPC, Sun Pharma and Power Grid were the gainers.

Among BSE sectoral indices, auto tumbled 3.06%, bankex (2.06%), Private Banks index (2.03%), BSE Top 10 Banks (2.03%), financial services (1.99%), consumer discretionary (1.89%) and PSU Bank (1.87%).

In contrast, BSE energy, healthcare, utilities, oil & gas and power were the gainers.

The BSE midcap select index tanked 1.55%, and the smallcap select index declined 0.61%.

A total of 2,380 stocks declined, while 1,881 advanced and 153 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Rupee closes at 92.01 against US dollar

The rupee declined 16 paise to settle at 92.01 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, weighed down by a sharp rise in global crude oil prices and a stronger greenback as the war in West Asia raged on.

FII outflows and weak sentiments in the domestic equity markets further pressured the local unit, according to forex traders.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 91.92 against the US dollar and traded in the range of 91.85-92.06 before settling at 92.01 (provisional), down 16 paise from its previous close.

The rupee staged a strong recovery from its record low against the US dollar on Tuesday, gaining 36 paise to settle at 91.85.

"The rupee declined on weak domestic markets and overnight recovery in crude oil prices. Risk-off sentiments in the global markets and FII outflows may continue to weigh on the rupee. Markets will also watch out for geopolitical developments in West Asia, " Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan, said.

"Traders may take cues from CPI data from the US. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in the range of 91.70-92.40," he added.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.14 per cent higher at 98.96.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading higher by 5.44% at $92.58 per barrel in futures trade.

Oil, gas price rise to hit India Inc profit margins: Crisil

India's GDP growth may moderate to 7.1% in FY27

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Surge in energy costs due to the ongoing West Asia conflict will hit profit margins of Indian companies, especially in sectors like petrochemicals, man-made textiles, paints, packaging, airlines and transportation, ratings agency Crisil said on Wednesday.

In its latest edition of India Outlook report, the rating agency noted that crude oil price in the financial year 2026-27 will be higher than the current fiscal.

"The force majeure declared by the suppliers in the Middle East and a tight global balance after the decoupling of European supplies from Russia are expected to keep prices elevated," it said.

The West Asia conflict is expected to impact corporate margins, both via direct and indirect cost escalations and disruption in raw material availability.

However, domestic consumption and a small improvement in exports will provide some support, Crisil said.

Beyond the near-term volatility, as supply conditions stabilise and demand growth remains moderate, crude prices are likely to consolidate in the second half, implying a full-year average of $75–80 per barrel for fiscal 2027 with an upside risk. Conversely, if the disruption persists for a prolonged period, tighter balances would keep prices elevated, it said.

Corporate revenue growth is expected to stay in the 8-9% range, backed by resilient consumption and a gradual pick-up in private investment, though commodity-linked sectors may face pricing pressure and growth in construction-related segments could moderate.

With growth in realisations subdued, EBITDA margins could decline 40-60 bps amid temporary supply disruptions.

"If crude or gas prices stay higher for longer, there could be further strain. Volatility and upswing here will impact margins in sectors such as airlines, ceramics, chemicals, fertilisers, paints, petrochemicals and tyres," Crisil said.

On the overall economy, Crisil said India's real GDP growth is likely to moderate to 7.1% in 2026-27 from 7.6% in the current fiscal.

"India has grown steadily in an environment buffeted by exogenous uncertainties. Our fiscal 2027 forecast reflects its strong domestic counterweights, especially consumption, infrastructure capex, uptick in the private investment cycle led by emerging sectors," said Amish Mehta, Managing Director and CEO, Crisil.

RIL to invest in first US oil refinery in 50 years: Trump

WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI, PTI

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries will partner in building the first new oil refinery in the US in 50 years, US President Donald Trump said, calling it the "biggest in US history".

The new refinery will be located in Brownsville, Texas, and will be designed to run entirely on US shale oil, according to America First Refining (AFR) -- the firm piloting the project.

Reliance has signed a 20-year agreement to purchase fuels produced at the refinery, with groundbreaking for the project scheduled in the second quarter of 2026.

While Trump in a social media post on Truth Social named Reliance as partner in the project that he said was "A HISTORIC $300 BILLION DOLLAR DEAL", AFR without naming the company said it has "received a 9-figure investment from a global supermajor at a 10-figure valuation".

Reliance did not immediately offer any comments.

Once completed, it would be the first new major refining project in the US since Marathon's Garyville, Louisiana, facility came online in 1977.

Neither Trump nor AFR gave financial details of the project or completion timelines.

The project may cost up to $4-5 billion, according to industry experts.

This will be the first oil refinery that Reliance will build in the US. It operates the world's biggest refining complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat with a capacity to process 1.24 million barrels of crude oil.

Reliance has had longstanding commercial presence in the US through energy trading, technology partnerships and investments. The company previously invested in US shale gas assets and currently sell a lot of fuel in the US. Reliance also sources crude oil, petrochemical feedstocks and technology from US partners, while its digital and retail arms have explored collaborations with American technology firms and investors.

Under the newly signed agreement, 1.2 billion barrels of US light shale oil, valued at $125 billion, will be purchased and processed. Also, AFR will produce 50 billion gallons of refined products worth $175 billion.

"The US trade imbalance will improve by $300 billion," it said in a statement.

The announcement came just as the US and Israel war against Iran roils oil markets and the White House seeks ways to quell concerns about rising energy prices.

6,789 recognised startups closed down till January

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada on Wednesday said that a total of 6,789 recognised startups have closed, with the IT sector recording the highest number.

"As on January 31, 2026, a total of 2,12,283 entities have been recognised as startups by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). 6,789 recognised startups are categorised as closed (i.e., dissolved/struck-off), as per the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)," Prasada informed the Lok Sabha in his written reply.

The sectors with the maximum number of startup closures include: IT Services: 875, Health and Life Sciences: 553, Education: 491, Food and Beverages: 320, and Agriculture: 301.

Replying to Raichur Congress Lok Sabha member G Kumar Naik, the Minister said startup closures are generally influenced by factors such as the viability of the business model, alignment with market demands, domestic and global economic conditions, the nature of products and services developed, the ability to attract funding, and other business-specific considerations.

To ensure the sustainability and growth of startups, the Government has unveiled an action plan comprising schemes and incentives. These include measures to improve access to capital along with ecosystem interventions to sustain entrepreneurship and innovation, he said.

The Centre has launched several schemes to support startups at various stages of their business cycle, including the Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS), Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS), and Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS), Prasada said.

Wipro signs multi-year deal with TruStage

BENGALURU, DHNS: IT services company Wipro on Wednesday announced that it has entered into a multi-year contract with insurance and financial services provider TruStage's retirement services business.

As part of this engagement, Wipro will transform TruStage's core retirement services operations and technology stack through an integrated approach that delivers seamless digital experiences, business agility, and increased efficiencies that aims to support TruStage in driving higher client satisfaction and foster product innovation, Wipro said in a statement.

Wipro will work with TruStage to build a strategic innovation roadmap to help TruStage achieve its goal of building a future-forward retirement services business.

State govt installs 25-qubit quantum computing system at IIIT-Dharwad, Raichur

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Government of Karnataka on Wednesday announced the installation of QpiAI Indus, a 25-qubit quantum computing system, at the Quantum Computing Centre of Excellence (QCCE) at the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Dharwad and IIIT-Raichur. The installation will be QpiAI's second deployment in Karnataka, strengthening the state's growing quantum ecosystem and expanding access to quantum computing capabilities for academia and industry in India.

25-qubit quantum computing system installed at IIIT-Dharwad

The initiative, under the Local Economy Acceleration Programme (LEAP), aligns with the State's efforts to build next-generation technology infrastructure under the Karnataka Quantum Roadmap and further positions Karnataka as a leading hub for emerging technologies.

The QpiAI Indus system will be leveraged for educational use, supporting curriculum development, hands-on student training, and faculty-led research as well as commercial workloads, enabling enterprises and innovators to experiment with and apply quantum computing to real-world problems.

QpiAI will also provide ongoing support to help IIIT-Dharwad users onboard, develop applications, and operationalise use cases across research and industry engagements, Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT/BT, Government of Karnataka said.

PIVOTAL SHIFT

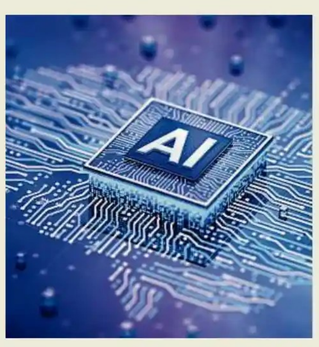
Banks move cautiously to adopt AI agents: Survey

BENGALURU, DHNS

Nearly half of APAC banks are stuck running pilots or adopting them in a few functions, as banks are moving cautiously to adopt AI agents. More than one in five - about 23%- are not currently using them at all, according to Accenture's Banking IT Executives Survey.

The survey revealed that governance for agents is lacking, as only 23% of APAC banks govern agents through a formal lifecycle and access model, compared to 75% who either have no formal governance, manage informally by business unit or track centrally with limited control.

It said that over the next three years, 62% of APAC banks expect moderate adoption of AI agents compared to just 25% that expect scaled adoption.



Interestingly, 74% of APAC banks expect to increase their technology headcount as a result of agentic AI, and only 4% expect to decrease headcount.

Nicole Bodack, Banking & Capital Markets lead for APAC, Accenture said, "Agentic AI marks a pivotal shift in how banks across Asia Pacific approach technology and talent. Rather than replacing people, AI is reshaping roles, creating new hybrid skills and enabling teams to focus on innovation and growth."

The real differentiator will be how boldly banks modernise their core, embed AI across the software lifecycle, and build trust through strong governance. Banks that move beyond experimentation with AI and put humans firmly in the lead will be best placed to turn technology from a cost burden into a sustained competitive advantage, Bodack added.

The survey also highlighted that banks in APAC expect 24–34% efficiency gains across the software development lifecycle, with major impact in code generation, testing, and documentation. Most bank CIOs expect gen AI to cut manual coding and testing effort by 10-50% while one in five anticipates greater reductions - allowing employees to focus on the backlog of technology activities that remain.

It said that banks should treat agents as digital co-workers with defined identities, permissions, and lifecycle management. The findings highlighted the need to establish governance frameworks to orchestrate, monitor, and ensure compliance as agent adoption scales.

"Make AI a CEO-sponsored priority tied to measurable business outcomes and encourage adoption by equipping employees with clear guidance on how AI can enhance daily work," it added.

Sebi exploring framework to speed up regulatory approval for AIFs

MUMBAI, PTI: Capital markets regulator Sebi is exploring a new regulatory framework for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) that could speed up the launch of fund schemes, its Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Wednesday.

The proposed 'Lodge and Launch' model would allow certain AIF schemes to be launched faster by relying on due diligence certificates issued by merchant bankers, which reduces the time needed for regulatory approvals.

Speaking at the IVCA Conclave 2026, Pandey said the framework aims to improve the ease of doing business, accelerate fund launches and facilitate faster mobilisation of private capital.

Under the proposed system, specific AIF schemes may rely on merchant bankers for due diligence certification. He said the industry will be consulted on the proposal.

Angelo powers to Speed King Plate

DELHI RESULTS

S Nawab-trained Angelo, ridden by AS Peter, won the Speed King Plate, the feature event of the Delhi races on Wednesday.

1. Rapid Dash Plate - 1600M: Banksy (Rustom Daraga) Angad 1; Alexander (SS Khadri) 2; Dinaar (Praveen Saini) 3; Girl Power (Varun) 4; Wb: 4-3/4, 1/2, 1/2L. T: 1-40.13. TB: Sarfaraz Khan. Fav: Banksy.

2. Quick Fire Plate - 1200M: Sir Mor (H Ali Khan) Dhanu Deora 1; Miss Boost (Angad) 2; Daring Diva (Jai Parkash) 3; Humaira (Rakesh) 4; Wb: 2-1/4, 7-1/2L, Nk. T: 1-11.83. TB: H Ali Khan. Fav: Miss Boost.

3. Speed King Plate - 1200M: Angelo (Ravinder Pal Singh) AS Peter 1; Eliminator (Angad) 2; Ashwa Pathan (S Qureshi) 3; Lodge Keeper (Rakesh) 4; Wb: 2-3/4, 2-1/2L, Dht. T: 1-06.66. TB: S Nawab. Fav: Angelo.

4. Lightning Bolt Plate - 1000M: Time To Win (Nanda Kishore) Abdul Fazal 1; Ticker (Faizan Khan) 2; Bahadur (Sunny Kumar) 3; Winning Legacy (Akash Rajput) 4; Wb: Shd, 1-3/4, 1-1/2L. T: 1-00.52. TB: Zulfiqar Khan. Fav: Ashwa Pathan.

5. Swift Strike Plate (Div-I) - 1000M: Lemon Pie (Amarjeet Singh Narula) Shivam 1; Senor (Deepak Kumar) 2; Maya (Vaurn) 3; Viggen (SS Khadri) 4; Not Run: Magic Spell & Aegir. Wb: 2-1/2, Shd, 3/4L. T: 1-00.89. TB: R Kumar. Fav: Lemon Pie.

6. Swift Strike Plate (Div-II) - 1000M: Trending Cruise (Kumud Sharma) Dhanu Deora 1; Weronika (Rakesh) 2; Eastern Crown (Jai Parkash) 3; Alex (Varun) 4; Wb: 3, 3-1/2, 1/2L. T: 59.54. TB: Ajay Sharma. Fav: Trending Cruise.

Bengaluru dividends:
I race: Rs 16w; 10, 18p; Fc: Rs 63; Q: Rs 27; Shp: Rs 25; Thp: Rs 28; Tri: Rs 88 & 36;
II race: Rs 35w; 15, 10, 10p; Fc: Rs 127; Q: Rs 53; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 29; Tri: Rs 151 & 61; Ex: Rs 369 & 182.
III race: Rs 14w; 10, 21p; Fc: Rs 48; Q: Rs 33; Shp: Rs 14; Thp: Rs 41; Tri: Rs 220 & 62; Ex: Rs 106 & 45.
IV race: Rs 183w; 34, 11, 26p; Fc: Rs 1,510; Q: Rs 741; Shp: Rs 41; Thp: Rs; 75; Tri: Rs 15,191 & 3,255; Ex: Rs 22,165 (c/o). .
V race: Rs 23w; 10, 98, 10p; Fc: Rs 937; Q: Rs 327; Shp: Rs 107; Thp: Rs 29; Tri: Rs 2,562 & 399; Ex: Rs 28,588 & 12,252.
VI race: Rs 17w; 14, 19, 63p; Fc: Rs 52; Q: Rs 49; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 78; Tri: Rs 509 & 382; Ex: Rs 2,149 & 562.
Jackpot: Rs 6,983 (11). **Runner-up**: Rs 2,743 (11). **Treble**: Rs 863 (35).

Trakial claims Indian Gold Vase

KOLKATA RESULTS

Aashay Doctor-trained Trakial, ridden by Trevor Patel, won the Indian Gold Vase, the feature event of the races on Wednesday.

1. Leonardo Handicap - 1200M: A Wink Annda Smile (Cherie Sports Ltd) Md Azaruddin 1; Lahina (Vishal Bunde) 2; Schwarzenegger (Suraj Narredu) 3; Horus The Great (Gaurav Singh) 4; Wb: 1/2, Nk, 3/4L. T: 1-13.92. TB: Rutherford Alford. Fav: Lahina.

2. Allodium Handicap- 1400M: Adeya (Vikram Bachhawat) Vinay Jaiswal 1; Amaze And Inspire (Suraj Narredu) 2; Rosalia (M S Deora) 3; True Faith (Abhishek Mhatre) 4; Wb: Nk, 1/2, 1-1/2L..T: 1-26.66. TB: Javed Khan. Fav: Rosalia.

3. Andrapov Handicap - 1400M: Polka Dot (Mrs Menaka Gupta) Trevor Patel 1; Dubai Ruler (Hasib Alam) 2; Anigraha (Hindu Singh) 3; Only Dreams (Vinod Shinde) 4; Wb: 1-3/4, Hd, 1/2L. T: 1-27.28. TB: Aashay Doctor. Fav: Laguna Seca.

4. Indian Gold Vase - 1400M: Trakila (Solomon Benveniste) Trevor Patel 1; Glorious King (Nikhil Naidu) 2; Black Eagle (Gaurav Singh) 3; Golden Glow (Vishal Bunde) 4; Wb: 2-1/2, 3/4L, Shd. T: 1-27.61. TB: Aashay Doctor. Fav: Trakila.

5. Grand Annual Mile- 1600M: Admiringly (D A Nanda) Trevor Patel 1; Stormchaser (Suraj Narredu) 2; Capr Tigani (Vinod Shinde) 3; Wb: 1-1/4, Dist.. T: 1-.38.15. TB: Aashay Doctor. Fav: Admiringly.

6. Fame Star Handicap - 1200M: Enchanting (Ram Shroff) Suraj Narredu1; Impressive Annie (R S Bhati) 2; Jimmy Bee (Vishal Bunde) 3; Tycoonist (Farid Ansari) 4; Wb: 1-1/2, 1-1/4, 3/4L. T: 1-12.32. TB: Deepesh Narredu. Fav: Enchantng.

Bengaluru dividends:
I race: Rs 236w; 30, 12, 12p; Fc: Rs 2,248; Q: Rs 470; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 51; Tri: Rs 5,612 & 1,374; . Ex: Rs 45,133 (c/o).
II race: Rs 295w; 63, 10p; Fc: Rs 587; Q: Rs 139; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 31; Tri: Rs 372 & 234; Ex: Rs 2,194 & 1,316.
III race: Rs 46w; 13, 90, 18p; Fc: Rs 3,080; Q: Rs 2,069; Shp: Rs 250; Thp: Rs 39; Tri: Rs 9,923 & 2,126; Ex: Rs 1,04,247.
IV race: Rs 16w; 13, 38p; Fc: Rs 167; Q: Rs 147; Shp: Rs 86; Thp: Rs; 26; Tri: Rs 859 & 263; Ex: Rs 1,458 & 499.
V race: Rs 13w; Fc: Rs 19; Shp: Rs 13.
VI race: Rs 19w; 13, 10, 11p; Fc: Rs 52; Q: Rs 35; Shp: Rs 35; Thp: Rs 29; Tri: Rs 104 & 41; Ex: Rs 1,467 & 712.
Jackpot: Rs 6,177 (37). **Runner-up**: Rs 1,139 (86). **I treble**: Rs 31,757 (c/o). **II treble**: Rs 38 (1209).

Charismatic for Mysore Race Club Ltd Cup

KOLKATA SELECTIONS

Charismatic, from the stables of Rutherford Alford and to be ridden by Suraj Narredu, is fancied to win the Mysore Race Club Ltd Cup, the feature event of the races to be run over a mile on Thursday.

First race starts at 2.00 pm.

1. Fly Like The Wind Handicap - 1400M: Amalfitana 1, Made In Heaven 2, Moneycatcher 3.
2. Quasar Handicap - 1600M: Dubai Prince 1, Hermes 2, Soul Aquarian 3.
3. Whomakestherules Handicap (Div-I) - 1100M: Cashable 1, Cashmere Silk 2, Godsend Divine 3.
4. Whomakestherules Handicap (Div-II) - 1100M: Surprise Fantasy 1, Swift Lady 2, Totally Epic 3.
5. Abbeville Handicap - 1600M: Cigar Galaxy 1, Togo 2, Whirlwind 3.
6. Mysore Race Club Ltd Cup - 1600M: Charismatic 1, Abhicandra 2, Aabushan 3.
7. Mr Gorgeous Handicap - 1100M: Cash N Run 1, Lavish Girl 2, Chililady 3.
Day's best: Cigar Galaxy.
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **I treble**: 2, 3, & 4. **II treble**: 5, 6 & 7.

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Yamal's last-gasp penalty saves Barca the blushes

Atletico, Bayern post big wins; listless Liverpool lose to Galatasaray

PARIS, AFP

Lamine Yamal's last-gasp penalty earned Barcelona a 1-1 draw at Newcastle United in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie on Tuesday, while Liverpool lost 1-0 to Galatasaray in Istanbul for the second time this season.

Atletico Madrid piled more misery on Tottenham Hotspur by winning 5-2 on a nightmare evening for visiting goalkeeper Antonin Kinsky, while Bayern Munich are all but through to the quarter-finals after thrashing Atalanta 6-1 in Italy.

At St James' Park, Newcastle were heading for a night to savour when Harvey Barnes broke the deadlock on 86 minutes as he turned in a Jacob Murphy cross for his sixth Champions League goal this season.

However, Barcelona were awarded a penalty deep in injury time when Dani Olmo was tripped by Malick Thiaw and Yamal -- a peripheral figure throughout the game -- converted with the last kick of the match in the 96th minute.

That will make Newcastle's task harder going to the Camp Nou for the return next Wednesday as they aim to reach the quarterfinals for the first time.

Barcelona's Lamine Yamal scores equaliser from the penalty spot against Newcastle in the first leg of the Champions League's round of 16 in Newcastle on Tuesday night. REUTERS

Bayern hit six

However, it is hard to see how they arrest a slump which has seen them lose all four games under new coach Tudor, and six on the bounce overall.

Earlier, Liverpool lost by a single goal to Galatasaray, just as they had when the clubs met in Turkey in the league phase.

Mario Lemina scored the only goal for the Turkish league leaders, heading in from close range after Victor Osinhen nodded down a corner.

Osimhen had the ball in the net again in the second half, only for an offside decision to come to Liverpool's rescue.

Bayern confirmed their status as one of the leading contenders to win the competition by crushing Atalanta in Bergamo, with Michael Olise in inspired form.

Results: Newcastle: 1 (Barnes 86th) drew with Barcelona: 1 (Yamal 90+6th P); Galatasaray: 1 (Lemina 7th) bt Liverpool: 0; Atalanta: 1 (Pasalic 90+3rd) lt to Bayern Munich (GER) 6 (Stanisic 12th, Olise 22nd, 64th, Gnabry 25th, Jackson 52nd, Musiala 67th); Atletico Madrid: 5 (Llorente 6th, Griezmann 14th, Alvarez 15th, 55th, Le Normand 22nd) bt Tottenham: 2 (Porros 26th, Solanke 76th).

We can't take part in World Cup: Iran's sports minister

Iran's sports and youth minister said it's "not possible" for the country to take part in the World Cup after the USAkilled its supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in its ongoing war, reports AP from Dubai.

Iran was expected to take part in the World Cup that will be held across North America in June, but Iranian Sports and Youth Minister Ahmad Donyamali told state television that his country's soccer team players are not safe in the US, according to a video posted Tuesday.

"Due to the wicked acts they have done against Iran - they have imposed two wars on us over just eight or nine months and have killed and martyred thousands of our people - definitely it's not possible for us to take part in the World Cup," he said.

Iran is scheduled to play in Inglewood, California, against New Zealand on June 15 and Belgium on June 21 before finishing group play against Egypt in Seattle on June 26.

Mandaviya meets FMSCI officials to revive Indian GP

Efforts on for a meeting with F1 management

NEW DELHI, PTI

Taking another step in his push to revive Formula One in the country, Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya **(in pic)** held a meeting with the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI) to discuss a framework that would create a "strong pipeline" of drivers and technicians.

The meeting was held in the national capital recently and was also attended by sports secretary Hari Ranjan Rao, joint secretary (sports) Kunal and FMSCI council member Vicky Chandhok among others.

Mandaviya had visited the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida, which had hosted F1 races from 2011 to 2013 before taxation issues caused an abrupt end to the event.

"We discussed and look at the possibility of bringing Formula One and MotoGP to India. The ministry is very keen and very clear that since India is the most advancing country in technology, the best sport should come here," said Chandhok, who was at the helm of FMSCI when the races were last held.

"They wanted to understand the challenges and they wanted to speak to FMSCI and see our organising skills. The minister and the entire ministry are very happy to support us."

That Mandaviya is keen to revive the race was apparent when he held discussions with officials from the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority regarding the future of motorsports infrastructure in the country during his visit to the circuit a few weeks ago.

"The discussions (with FMSCI delegation) focused on creating structured pathways for athletes, engineers, and technical professionals associated with the sport," said a Sports Ministry source.

"Dr Mandaviya called for developing a comprehensive framework that positions motorsports at the intersection of sport and India's rapidly growing automotive and engineering sectors," he added.

It is also reliably learnt that the FMSCI has offered to facilitate a meeting between Mandaviya and the Formula One management which is headed by former Ferrari team boss Stefano Domenicali.

India is trying to position itself as a global sporting hub and has already won the 2030 Commonwealth Games hosting rights in Ahmedabad, the city that is also in the race to become an Olympic host in 2036.

"Expanding the range of sporting disciplines and strengthening high-performance ecosystems are key steps," said the source.

Indian boxers march on in Futures Cup

BANGKOK, PTI: Priyansh Sehrawat, L Ambekar and Sahil Duhan registered convincing victories as the Indian youth boxing team continued their impressive run on the fourth day of the World Boxing Futures Cup here on Wednesday.

In the morning session, Priyansh (70kg) began the day on a positive note for India, registering a dominant 5-0 unanimous decision victory over Latvia to advance in the tournament.

The evening session saw two more convincing wins for the Indian team. Ambekar (50kg) secured a 5-0 unanimous decision victory over Tajikistan while Sahil (60kg) also recorded a commanding 5-0 win against Tajikistan, continuing his strong run in the competition.

Meanwhile, Aman Siwach (65kg) suffered a setback after going down to his opponent from Ukraine by Referee Stopped Contest (RSC) in the second round.

Para jumper Praveen shines

NEW DELHI, PTI: India's star high jumper Praveen Kumar soared to yet another gold, dominating his event as the hosts collected multiple medals on the opening day of the World Para Athletics Grand Prix here on Wednesday.

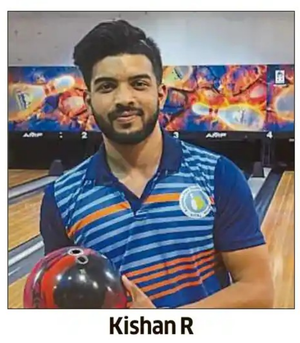
Praveen, the 2024 Paris Paralympics gold medallist, dominated the men's T44 high jump, clearing 1.96m to take the top podium spot. Fellow Indians Unni Renu (1.86m) and Banti (1.83m) won silver and bronze respectively.

Kishan wrests lead from Sahil

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka's Kishan R put up a commanding performance to take the lead by the end of round 1 of the National Tenpin Bowling Championships here on Wednesday.

The former national champion dominated the second block of six games on medium oil condition. After posting scores of 196 and 190 in the opening two games, he shifted gears and dominated the lanes with impressive games of 255, 213, 233 and 263, closing the block with a total pinfall of 1350 and an impressive average of 225.0.



Kishan R

With two blocks of six games completed in the first round, Kishan R now tops the standings with an overall pinfall of 2518 from 12 games, maintaining a strong average of 209.83.

Another former national champion Dhruv Sarda (Delhi) delivered a notable performance during the second block of 6 games as he posted a strong 1329 pinfall at an average of 221.5 in his second block of six games, moving into second position, 108 pins behind leader Kishan R after the round.

Kiran stuns Loh; Ayush, Tanvi, Unnati lose

Kiran George

BASEL, PTI

Kiran George produced a stunning straight-game win over former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore in a mixed day for Indian shuttlers at the Swiss Open here on Wednesday.

Kiran, ranked 42 in the world, outwitted third seed Loh 23-21, 21-19 in his opening round match to set up a clash with Hong Kong's Jason Gunawan.

Gunawan ended the campaign of former world no. 1 Kidambi Srikanth, who suffered a 21-15, 12-21, 4-21 in another round of 32 match.

Indian mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto also notched up an upset win over fourth sed Jesper Toft and Amalie Magelund of Denmark 21-15, 21-14 in their opening match.

The duo will face China's Gao Jia Xuan and Wu Meng Ying next.

However Ayush Shetty and Tanvi Sharma, bowed out in the opening round.

THE FEDERAL BANK LIMITED
Regd. Office: Aluva, Kerala.
ZONAL OFFICE: 2nd Floor, Halcyon Complex, No.9, St Marks Road, Bangalore-560 001.
e-mail:bgrr-cpc@federalbank.co.in Ph:080-22074610/24/25

BGRR/Pvt Sale/Q4/2025-26 — NOTICE FOR PRIVATE SALE OF GOLD — 11/03/2026

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold Ornaments pledged in the following Gold Loan accounts, with the under mentioned Branches of the Bank, which are overdue for redemption and which have not been regularized so far in spite of repeated notices, will be put for Private sale, in the respective branches on any date after 17-03-2026 as shown below:

Br. Bangalore/Banaswadi: No.13, Banaswadi Main Road, Bangalore-560 043 Karnataka :- 14716600001312,14716900015780,14716900016226,14716900016234,14716900016242.
Br. Bangalore/Jalahalli: 17/1 Savithri, S M Road, Jalahalli West, Bangalore- 560 015:- 15826400146024.
Br. Bangalore/Vignana Nagar: No. 124, S R Plaza, Vignana Nagara Main road, Bangalore- 560 037 :- 16296900003506,16296900003514. **Br. Bangalore/Vidyaranyapura: Ground Floor, No. 1123, Khata No. 1066/2744/1123, 6th Block, HMT Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560 097:-** 23966900004065.
Br. Chikkajala: Sri Byraveshwara Complex, No 82/3, Chikkajala Village, KIAL Road, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka- 562 157:- 20866100062017,20866400060505,20866900004680.
Br. Chikmagalur: P B No. 157, Thogarihenkal Circle, K M Road, Chikmagaluru- 577 101:- 13566400269887.
Br. Dharwad: Inamdhar Desai Arcade, Opp Spandhana Hospital, Vivekananda Circle, Saptapur, Dharwad- 580 001:- 16386400122672,16386400122680. **Br. Hassan: #23-5-575-21, Ground Floor, Oriental Plaza, Near Suvarna Hotel, B M Road, Shariff Colony, Ward No. 23, Hassan, Karnataka- 573 201:-** 13546400365729.
Br. Hebri: Spatika Plaza, Kuchoor Road, Hebri, Karkala Taluk, Udupi, Karnataka- 576 112:- 18966400038255.
Br. Hiriyur: Prashantha Nilaya, Main Road, Hiriyur, Chitradurga Dist. Karnataka-577 598:- 19886400107703.
Br. Surya Nagar: K H No. 165/1 & 166/1, 1st Floor, Banajappa Building, B.Nanjappa Layout, Suryanagar 1st Phase, Banahall Chandapura, Bangalore, Karnataka-560 081:- 21686400056876.

Bangalore 11-03-2026 — Senior Vice President & Zonal Head

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KOPPAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (R), KOPPAL (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ನೊಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:KOL-S243-2012-13 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15–03–2013
Website: www.kimskoppal.com email: directorkimskoppal@gmail.com
Office : 08539 225522 Office : 08539-225523

No:KIMS/Koppal/Tender/2025-26/746 — Date:10/03/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for Supply of Lenin & Bedding Items To KIMS Koppal under two cover Bid system as per KTPP Act 1999 rule 2000 KPPP portal of Government of Karnataka. Tender Approximate Cost:39.93 Lakhs, EMD Rs.80,000Tender documents may download from the **11/03/2026** from 05.30 PM
1) Last Date for Submission of Tender **26/03/2026** up to 05.30 PM
Further information may be obtained from the above office during office hours & also from Website:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and this office web-site www.kimskoppal.kar.nic.in

DIPR/Koppal/747/KSMCA/2025-26 — Sd/-Director, KIMS Koppal.

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬಂಡಿಮೋಟ್, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ–583101
ಇಮೇಲ್– apmcballari@gmail.com, ದೂ:08392–250442 ಫಾಕ್ಸ್:08392–250890

ಸಂ:ಕೃಉಮಾಸ(ಬ)/ಅಭಿಕೆ/1077/2025–26 — ದಿನಾಂಕ:09/03/2026

E-Tender Notification

Agricultural produce market committee, Ballari invites Providing Infrastructure Facilities At "B" Wing Of New Chilly Market At Aladahalli Village Of Apmc Ballary (RM-31019) UNDER RIDF-31 SCHEME 2025-26 work tender through e-procurement only in 2 cover system for the item rate basis from the eligible PWD class I civil contractors. The tenderers are required to submit the requisite details through website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** as per KTTP rules and norms.
01.PRE BID MEETING DATE: **24-03-2026**
02.LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF TENDERS: **10-04-2026**
03.DATE FOR OPENING OF TECHNICAL BID: **13-04-2026**
04.DATE FOR OPENING OF FINANCIAL BID: **15-04-2026**
Any additional information and conditions can be obtained from website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or by contacting Karnataka government E-procurement help desk, 080-22485867 or secretary APMC, BALLARI, 08392-250442 on all working days. Changes, if any in the tender notification shall be made known only in the website. APMC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- Secretry APMC Ballari — DIPR/Ballari/1115/KSMCA/2025-26 — Sd/-Chairman APMC Ballari

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer KNNL, GRBCC Div No. 2, Hidkal Dam Office Tel. No. 08333-2200119 / Fax No. 08333-263405 / e-mail: eegrbc2@gmail.com

No.: KNNL /GRBCC-2 /DB/TND /2025-26/2545 Dated: 10-03-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement system only)

In the year 2025-26, tender announcement for 01 No. Dam related works has been issued under this division office. The details are as follows.(Estimate Amount Rs.70.94 Lakhs) 1) Indent No.2955Call-2 2) Govt of Karnataka Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal Tender Documents Viewed from Date:11-03-2026. 2)Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders Date:20-03-2026 Time:17.30 Hrs 3) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid/tender:23-03-2026 Time:10.30 Hrs.
Further any information :Note:Here after any change with reference to this Notification will be Notified in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portl Only.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-2050/KSMCA/2025-26 — Sd/-Executive Engineer, KNNL GRBCC Div No.2 Hidkal Dam

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka)
Executive Engineer, KNNL, MRBCC Division No. 1, Nargund Dist : Gadag
Tel No. 08377-244236 e-mail : knnlestablishment@gmail.com

No.KNNL/MRBCC.Div-1/PB/Tender/2025-26/1739 Dated : 09-03-2026

Tender Notfication-6th Call
(Through Gov. Kppp-Portal only)

The tender has invited through Kppp portal in two cover system on turnkey basis as per KW-4 from eligible contractors registered in public works department by the under signed on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL 4th Floor, Coffee BoardBuilding Dr. B.R Ambedkar Veedhi Banglore-560001. (1) Indent No.1574 -Approximate Amount put to **Rs. 45.75** Crores. EMD Amount **Rs. 38.40** Lakhs (2) Indent No.1575-Approximate Amount put to Rs. **41.30** Crores. EMD Amount Rs. **34.71** Lakhs (3) Last Date for tender querries/clarification Dt :**18-03-2026** at 11.00 AM To 5.30 Pm (4) Pre-bid meeting will be Conducted on Dt:**18-03-2026** at 11.00 AM. in the O/o The Managing Director, KNNL, 4th Floor, coffee Board building No.1, Dr. B.R.AmbedkarVeedhi Benglore-560001. (5) Last date of submission of completed e-tenders :Dt:**08-04-2026** up to 4.00 PM. (6) Technical bid Opening:Dt: **10-04-2026** After 11:00 AM. Financial Bid: After approval of technical bid, the financial bid will be opened.
Contractor eligibilty/Tender conditions/Tender processing fee etc can be had form the website Kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Further information can be had from the under signed during the office hours on telephone **08377-244236.**

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/702/2025-26 — Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL MRBCC Divn. No. 1, Nargund.

KARNATAKA URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.,
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Nagarabhivruddi Bhavan, #22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar, 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560038.
Ph No.: 080-25196124, Fax: 25196110 | Website: www.kuidfc.com, e-mail: info@kuidfc.com

No: KUIDFC/AHR/NBM/1/2025-TM NKUSIP-KUIDFC/2025-26(Part-1) Date: 10.03.2026

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION-2nd Call

KUIDFC invites tender for following service from the eligible bidders. The document will be available on KPP portal of GoK. (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**)
Name of the Work: Providing Comprehensive AMC for 3 no's Passenger Lifts of 13 persons/884 kg capacity for 3 years at Nararabhiruddi Bhavana, KUIDFC, Bengaluru. EMD Rs.21,000/-. Tender Publish **Date: 11.03.2026.** Pre-bid meeting Date & Time: **16.03.2026 Time: 11.30 AM.** Last Date & Time for Bid submission: **23.03.2026 Time: 5.30 PM.** Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid: **25.03.2026 Time: 11:30 AM.** Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid: **30.03.2026 Time: 11:30 AM.**
Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP portal. Any further Notification will be through KPP Portal and KUIDFC official website only.

DIPR/CP/JA/6181/2025-26 — Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Admin)

KARNATAKA URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.,
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Nagarabhivruddi Bhavan, #22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar, 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560038.
Ph No.: 080-25196124, Fax: 25196110 | Website: www.kuidfc.com, e-mail: info@kuidfc.com

No.: KUIDFC/Admn/NB/Transformer/2025-26 Date: 10.03.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION-2nd Call

KUIDFC invites tender for following service from the eligible bidders. The tender document will be available on KPP portal of GoK (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**)
Name of the Work: Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 250 KVA Dry type, copper winding transformer at Nagarabhivruddhi Bhavana KUIDFC. **EMD Rs.: 20,000/-.**
Tender Publish **Date: 11.03.2026.** Pre-bid meeting Date & Time: **16.03.2026 Time: 11.30 AM.** Last Date & Time for Bid submission: **23.03.2026 Time: 5.30 PM.** Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid: **25.03.2026 Time: 11:30 AM.** Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid: **30.03.2026 Time: 11:30 AM.**
Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP portal. Any further Notification will be through KPP Portal and KUIDFC official website only.

DIPR/CP/JA/6182/2025-26 — Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Admin)

Shivam Dube

With no flight tkts, Dube takes train to Mumbai

MUMBAI, PTI: Shivam Dube, whose explosive batting added 24 runs to India's total in the last over of the T20 World Cup final, quietly travelled by train from Ahmedabad to Mumbai, railway officials said on Wednesday.

A senior railway official said they learnt from media reports that, with all flights to Mumbai fully booked, Dube chose to travel by train so he could reach the city as early as possible to be with his two young children, despite the risk of being mobbed by cricket fans.

The star all-rounder boarded the Mumbai-bound Sayaji Nagari Express from Ahmedabad in the early hours of Monday, along with his wife Anjum and a friend, hours after he and his teammates lifted the World Cup, he said.

The official said that after noticing his name on the train reservation chart, a ticket checker wondered if he was the cricketer Dube. However, his wife deftly handled the situation, saying why the cricketer would travel by train.

To avoid being recognised by co-passengers, Dube reportedly wore a cap, mask and a full-sleeved T-shirt as he boarded the train at 5.10 am and climbed onto his upper berth after entering an AC three-tier coach, the official said.

The train journey takes at least eight hours, and he was resting on the berth after the hectic tournament and celebrations, the official said.

CRICKET

RCB-SRH clash to kick off IPL

Opener on Mar 28; Challengers to play Super Kings in the 2nd match at home

MADHU JAWALI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Royal Challengers Bengaluru will host Sunrisers Hyderabad at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in the Indian Premier League's season opener on March 28. DH FILE PHOTO

Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru will host Sunrisers Hyderabad at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here to kick off the 19th edition of the Indian Premier League on March 28.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India, however, announced the schedule only for the first phase, which will be held until April 12, keeping in mind the assembly elections in three states that have either IPL franchises or will be hosting matches.

"As three states are scheduled to undergo state assembly elections during this period, the full schedule of the tournament will be announced once the poll dates are announced," said a statement from the BCCI.

West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Assam are the three states that will go for polls. While Kolkata Knight Riders and Chennai Super Kings are based out of Bengal and TN capitals respectively, Guwahati will be hosting some of Rajasthan Royals' games.

In fact, Royals begin their campaign in Guwahati which will host Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians.

There is also a concern as to how the turmoil in West Asia could affect the tournament. With Dubai, one of the busiest transit points, airport operations hit severly, the movement of players from certain countries -- especially West Indies and South Africa -- remains uncertain.

The players from there countries, some of who are part of various IPL franchises, left India only on Wednesday in a phased manner by commercial flights arranged by the ICC. It remains to be seen if they can return in time for the tournament.

RCB will play four matches in the first phase, with the first two to be played at home. The marquee clash between the red and gold brigade and the Chennai Super Kings will be played at the Chinnaswamy on April 5.

The Rajat Patidar-led side will then travel to Jaipur for their third match against Rajasthan Royals on April 10 before facing hosts Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede on April 12.

The BCCI also confirmed that RCB would play five of their home matches in Bengaluru and the remaining two in Raipur.

The Bengaluru matches, however, are subject to clearance from the Expert Committee constituted by the Government of Karnataka, the release stated.

"The committee will conduct a meeting and inspection of the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on March 13 during which a full-scale mock demonstration of match-day arrangements will be carried out to assess the stadium's preparedness for hosting IPL matches."

Karnataka State Cricket Association, meanwhile, claimed that the work towards safety measures they have undertaken was on the right track.

"Yes, I can confirm there will be a mock demonsatation of match-day arrangements on March 13, and we are confident the all the arrangements will be in place for the committee to inspect," said KSCA spokesperson Vinay Mruthyunjaya.

Punjab Kings are scheduled to play four home matches in New Chandigarh and three in Dharamshala.

A total of 20 matches will be played in the first phase across 10 venues—Bengaluru, Mumbai, Guwahati, New Chandigarh, Lucknow, Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad.

The first phase schedule will also feature four double-headers with the first match on these days commencing at 3.30 PM. The first double-header will be played on April 4 with Delhi Capitals locking horns with Mumbai Indians at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi in the opening match of the day, followed by Gujarat Titans taking on Rajasthan Royals at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

World Cup winners receive Rs 25 crore from prize money

DUBAI, PTI

Champions India received USD 2,639,423 (approx Rs 25 crore), the biggest share from the prize money pool after winning the men's T20 World Cup at home as the ICC on Wednesday announced the distribution of a record USD 11.25 million players' prize fund following the tournament's conclusion.

The total purse reflects the significant increase in ICC tournament prize money introduced in 2024, aimed at boosting financial rewards for players and supporting the global growth of cricket.

Runners-up New Zealand national cricket team earned USD 1,422,692 (Rs 13 crore approx), while semifinalists South Africa and England received INR 9.24 crore and USD 8.96 crore respectively.

Among other top finishers, West Indies cricket team were awarded USD 538,269, while Pakistan team which played all its matches in Sri Lanka received USD 522,692.

Further down the distribution list, Zimbabwe national cricket team were allocated USD 491,538 and Sri Lanka received USD 475,962.

The group of Afghanistan, Australia and United States which was eliminated at the Super 8s stage each earned USD 309,808.

Meanwhile, Scotland received USD 278,654, and Ireland took home USD 271,731.

Four more teams -- Italy, Netherlands, United Arab Emirates and Nepal -- each received USD 256,154.

Finally, Canada, Namibia and Oman were each awarded USD 225,000.

PRIZE MONEY BREAK-UP

- Winners (India): Rs 25 cr
- Runners-up (NZ): Rs 13 cr
- South Africa: Rs 9.24 cr
- England: Rs 8.96 cr
- A total of approximetaly Rs 103.5 cr were distributed across 20 teams that participated in the event.

ICC hits back at criticism on travel

DUBAI, PTI: The ICC on Wednesday expressed sympathy for the international players stranded in India after the T20 World Cup but lambasted "uninformed and unhelpful" suggestions that "anything other than safety" is driving the travel plans that have been thrown haywire by the West Asia conflict.

The war, which began with the American and Israeli bombing of Iran last month, has led to closure of the air space over Gulf.

The ICC said it empathises with the stranded players, specifically from South Africa and the West Indies, but "safety, feasibility and welfare" of the teams is being carefully considered while drawing up alternate routes.

Navneet 'tricks as India wallop hapless Wales

Salima's girls secure 4-1 win to enter semis at WC Qualifiers

HYDERABAD, PTI

Navneet Kaur (left) celebrates after scoring a goal during India's win over Wales in Hyderabad on Wednesday. HI MEDIA

Navneet Kaur scored a hat-trick as India secured a dominant 4-1 victory against Wales in a Pool B clash at the women's hockey World Cup Qualifiers here on Wednesday.

Kaur (29th, 34th, 55th) led the attack with three goals after Sakshi Rana's (7th) early strike at the GMC Balayogi Hockey Ground.

Though India had secured a semifinal berth ahead of the fixture, the result ensured they finished as table-toppers.

India will now take on Italy on Friday to seal their spot in the final.

The hosts took the lead as early as the seventh minute when Salima Tete orchestrated a move down the right flank and Sakshi unleashed a powerful reverse hit from the edge of the circle.

In the 29th minut, in another penalty corner, Navneet powered a low shot into goal to double India's lead. The goal capped a dominant first half for India that saw them hold 55% of the possession with as many as 15 circle entries.

India stayed on the prowl in the third quarter. In the 34th minute, a run from Sakshi earned India a penalty corner and Navneet made no mistake in completing her brace and making it 3-0.

It was Betsan Thomas (39th) who cut down the deficit for Wales, making the most of momentary lapse by India. In the final quarter, Navneet then went on to complete her hat-trick converting a penalty stroke in the 55th minute.

South revive campaign with win over NE

BENGALURU, DHNS: South Zone kept their chances of progression to the knockout stages alive with a seven-wicket win over North East Zone in the league stage of the Senior Women's Inter-Zonal One-Day Trophy tournament at the BCCI Centre of Excellence here on Wednesday.

Fielding first, South Zone bundled out North East for a modest 195 in 42.2 overs with K Anjali Sarvani (3/42) and BG Tejaswani (3/25) doing the maximum damage. Felfel Pautu top-scored for North East with 47 at the top.

In-form Henrietta Pereira scored an unbeaten 69 while Sayali Lonkar (36 n.o) anchored from the other end as South made a short work of the North East total, reaching 199/3 in 30.5 overs.

Brief scores: North East Zone: 195 all out in 42.2 overs (Felfel Pautu 47, Vanlal Rem Tluangi 32, Najmeen Khatun 33, Sentilemla 53; Shabnam Shakil 2-40, K Anjali Sarvani 3-42, BG Tejaswani 3-25) lt to South Zone: 199/3 in 30.5 overs (Yuvashri Karthikeyan 31, S Shubha 33, Henrietta Pereira 69 n.o., Sayali Lonkar 36 n.o.). **SZ's next match:** East Zone (Mar 13).

Swaroop slams ton in Infosys victory over BBMP

BENGALURU, DHNS: Swaroop SH's 104-run knock ensured Infosys Cricket Club powered past Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for a 69-run victory in the KSCA Group II - II Division league cum knockout tournament here.

Swaroop's century took Infosys to 170/7 in 20 overs while BBMP could only score 101/7 in return. Ajay Bhide (2/15) and Raghavendra HS (2/14) collected a couple of wickets apiece in Infosys' triumph.

Brief scores: Infosys Cricket Club: 170/7 in 20 overs (Swaroop SH 104, Bharath Kumar G 35 n.o.; S Shylesh 2-35, Santhosha Kumara Naik K 2-29) bt BBMP: 101/7 in 20 overs (S Shylesh 43; Ajay Bhide 2-15, Raghavendra HS 2-14).

Karnataka State Police Cricket Club: 133 all out in 19.5 overs (Thejas L 3-13, Vinay KB 2-12, Gaurav 2-22) lt to Continental Automotive Cricket Club: 135/3 in 15.3 overs (Thejas L 59, Karthik J 26 n.o.; Madhusudan 2-24).

Bosch Sports Club, Bangalore: 119/8 in 20 overs (Samarth Srinivas 59, Gagan CM 28; Somala Ranjith Kumar 3-17, Shashidhar HS 2-16) bt Railway Institute (Krishnarajapuram): 111/6 in 20 overs (Shashidhar HS 32, Sitaram Meena 25 n.o.; Amogh R 2-23, Geeth Sagar Netala 2-24).

Triton Sports Club, Mysore: 80 all out in 18.1 overs (Santosh Kumar Singh 3-19, Aaron K Joseph 3-12, Ambresh K 2-17) lt to Bhagirathi Group: 81/3 in 7.2 overs (Aadarsh Prajwal S 37; Prazwal T 2-25).

Indian Air Force, Jalahalli: 111/9 in 20 overs (Ashish Kumar 38; Karna Surya Vamshi 3-12, Santhosh Kumar M 2-28) lt to Titan Company Limited Cricket Club: 112/4 in 15.1 overs (Santhosh Kumar M 48, Dheeraj Mohan 25).

L&T Construction Equipments Sports Club: 142/9 in 20 overs (Chinmaya MA 53, Vikram Ananth 31; Gautham R Reddy 3-17) lt to BEL Sports Club: 143/3 in 16.5 overs (Gautham R Reddy 78, Shivu M 28 n.o.).

South Railway Institute, Mysore: 145 all out in 20 overs (Suresh M 43, Nishit Srivatsa UB 29; Shashank HC 3-13, Sharath C 2-25) bt SWR Central Workshop, Ashokpuram, Mysore: 126/9 in 18.1 overs (Srinidhi V 26, Shashank HC 29; Dhananjaya S 4-24, Suhas B S 2-25).

Bangalore Telephone Cricket Club: 91 all out in 18.2 overs (Yashwantha 36; Koushik BP 3-10, Akash LN 2-29) bt Karnataka Postal Sports Club: 85 all out in 15.3 overs (G Murugan 3-16, Yashwantha 2-25, S Praveen 2-17).

Sharath century powers AGORC

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sharath BR belted a rapid 110 not out as AGO Recreation Club chased down a target of 147 in just 13 overs for a nine-wicket victory against DELL Cricket Club in the KSCA Group II - I Division league cum knockout tournament on Tuesday.

Before Sharath's onslaught, Rajesh Kanna M's half-century (56) and 43 not out by Madhusudhan Rao N took DELL to 146/5 in 20 overs.

Brief scores: DELL Cricket Club: 146/5 in 20 overs (Rajesh Kanna M 56, Madhusudhan Rao N 43 n.o.; Arjun N Gowda 2-23) lt to AGO Recreation Club: 147/1 in 13 overs (Sharath Belur Ravi 110 n.o.).

Krishika, bowlers take K'taka into QF

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka progressed to the quarterfinals of the BCCI U-23 Women's One-Day Trophy tournament as the side defeated Bihar by four wickets in their last Elite Group B match in Jaipur on Wednesday.

Krishika Reddy's 62 not out ensured Karnataka chased down a 130-run target with four wickets and 18.3 overs to spare after Vandita Rao (3/18) and Saloni P (3/21) bowled out Bihar for a mere 129 in 38.5 overs.

Karnataka, who were placed second before the match, finished as group toppers and took direct entry into the quarterfinals as third-placed Baroda handed a heavy defeat of 72 runs to Madhya Pradesh who were leading the group earlier after beating Karnataka.

Baroda, however, couldn't progress further despite being tied on 16 points with MP and Karnataka, who were ahead on a superior net run-rate.

Brief scores: Bihar: 129 all out in 38.5 overs (Vaidehi Yadav 64, Pooja Kumari M 2-26, Vandita K Rao 3-18, Saloni P 3-21) lt to Karnataka: 131/6 in 31.3 overs (Krishika Reddy 62 n.o., Surya 2-38, Vaidehi Yadav 2-28).

Rana's pace rips Pak apart in Bangla win

MIRPUR, AFP: Bangladesh pace sensation Nahid Rana claimed his first five-wicket haul in one-day internationals to lead his team to a crushing eight-wicket win over Pakistan in their opening match on Wednesday.

Rana returned figures of 5-24 to skittle out Pakistan for 114, a total Bangladesh overhauled in 15.1 overs of the 50-over contest in Mirpur to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Opener Tanzid Hasan hammered an unbeaten 67 off 42 balls and put on a second-wicket partnership of 82 with Najmul Hossain Shanto, who made 27, in a statement win.

Earlier, Nahid laid the platform for victory with his outstanding spell in his seven overs to bowl out Pakistan for their lowest ODI total against Bangladesh, eclipsing the previous 161 during the 1999 World Cup.

Brief scores: Bangladesh: 115/2 in 15.1 overs (Tanzid Hasan Tamim 67, Najmul Hossain Shanto 27) bt Pakistan: 114 all out in 30.4 (Sahibzada Farhan 27, Faheem Ashraf 37; Mehidy Hasan Miraz 3-29, Nahid Rana 5-24).
Result: Bangla won by 8 wkts.
PoM: Nahid Rana.

◆ ON TV ◆

FOOTBALL

Europa League (R16 leg-1): Bologna vs AS Roma, Lille vs Aston Villa, Panathinaikos vs Real Betis **(11:15 pm)**, Celta Vigo vs Lyon, Ferencvaros vs Braga, Nottingham Forest vs FC Midtjylland **(all 1:30 am, Friday). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network, SonyLIV.**

TENNIS

Indian Wells: Round of 16 **(5:30 pm). LIVE** on **FanCode.**

CRICKET

CK Nayudu Final: Tamil Nadu vs Maharashtra **(Day 4, 9:30 am). LIVE** on **JioHotstar.**

GBP 50k for Richa at The Hundred

LONDON, PTI: India opener Smriti Mandhana headlined the Indian presence in the women's player draft for The Hundred, while compatriot Richa Ghosh **(in pic)** secured a deal worth GBP 50,000 (Rs 61 lakh approximately) and all-rounder Deepti Sharma also earned a contract during the auction here on Wednesday.

A total of 178 players went under the hammer in the draft, while 28 had already been either retained or signed directly by franchises ahead of the event.

The League will start on July 21 and conclude on August 16.

Richa was snapped up by Manchester Super Giants for GBP 50,000 after the franchise made a solitary bid that was enough to secure the services of the Indian wicket-keeper-batter.

Manchester Super Giants had earlier strengthened their squad by directly signing Mandhana along with Australia great Meg Lanning, while England spinner Sophie Ecclestone was retained by the side.

Deepti, meanwhile, was picked up by SunRisers Leeds at what was considered a bargain price of GBP 27,500 (approx 34 lakh). The franchise opened the bidding and faced no further competition to land the experienced Indian all-rounder.

However, India's Yastika Bhatia and Sree Charani went unsold in the draft.

Sizzling Sabalenka powers past Osaka

INDIAN WELLS, (USA), AFP

Four-time major champion Jannik Sinner edged talented Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca 7-6 (6), 7-6 (4) in a scintillating Stadium Court clash on Tuesday to reach the quarterfinals at Indian Wells.

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka powered into the quarterfinals of the women's draw with a statement 6-2, 6-4 victory over former champion Naomi Osaka in a battle of Grand Slam winners.

It was another straightforward, straight-sets victory for Sabalenka, who fired 31 winners with eight aces.

Sabalenka is up against 10th-seeded Victoria Mboko.

The 19-year-old Canadian saw off sixth-seeded American Amanda Anisimova 6-4, 6-1. to earn a shot at Sabalenka, who beat her in the fourth round of the Australian Open.

Aryna Sabalenka returns during her win over Naomi Osaka in the third round of the Indian Wells on Wednesday. AFP

Australian qualifier Talia Gibson's dream run in the California desert continued as she belted 42 winners in a 7-5, 2-6, 6-1 victory over seventh-ranked Italian Jasmine Paolini.

Bhambri & partner win

India's top doubles player Yuki Bhambri and his partner Goran Goransson advanced to the quarterfinals of the men's doubles event at the Indian Wells Masters after registering a straight-set win over the pair of Sander Arends and Jiri Lehecka, reports PTI.

Bhambri and Goransson defeated Arends and Lehecka 6-4 6-4 in the pre-quarterfinal clash.

They will take on Austria's Alexander Erler and Italy's Andrea Vavassori in the last-eight stage.

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